

Political Parties

Fastrack Revision

- ▶ A political party is a group of people who aim to attain power in the government through elections. It mobilises voters to support common sets of interests, concerns and goals.
- ▶ A political party works with an objective to promote the collective good on the basis of some policies and programmes. They seek to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.
- ▶ A political party has the following three components:
 - ▶ The leaders
 - ▶ The active members
 - ▶ The followers
- ▶ Political parties perform various functions which are as follows:
 - ▶ In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by the political parties.
 - ▶ Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from amongst them.
 - ▶ Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
 - ▶ Parties form and run governments.
 - ▶ Parties that could not get majority from the opposition. They criticise government for its failure or wrong policies.
 - ▶ Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues and with the help of pressure groups launch movements for solving problems faced by the people.
 - ▶ Parties ensure people's access to government machinery and also to welfare schemes implemented by the government.
- ▶ We need political parties because of the various functions performed by them. Also, democracy cannot exist without political parties.
- ▶ Broadly, political party system can be divided into the following three categories:
 - ▶ Single (One-party) System
 - ▶ Bi-party (Two-party) System
 - ▶ Multi-party System
- ▶ One-party system has been popular in Communist countries and other authoritarian regimes *i.e.*, China, North Korea and Cuba.
- ▶ Two-party system prevails in Great Britain and the United States of America in which only two major dominant parties hold significant number of seats.
- ▶ Multi-party system is the most common type of party system in which more than two parties have the capacity to gain control of the government separately or in the coalition.
- ▶ A political party can be national or regional.
- ▶ National political parties are country-wide parties. These parties have their units in various states. These units follow the same policies, programmes and strategies that are decided at the national level.
- ▶ A party that secures at least 6% votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha, is considered and recognised as a National Party.
- ▶ There are seven recognised parties in India as of 2018. These are as follows:
 - ▶ Indian National Congress (INC)
 - ▶ Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
 - ▶ Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
 - ▶ Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)
 - ▶ Communist Party of India (CPI)
 - ▶ Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
 - ▶ All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) Party

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Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Biju Janata Dal, Sikkim Democratic Front are some of the important state/regional parties.

- ▶ On the other hand, the party which secures at least 6% votes in the State Legislative Assembly and wins at least two seats is recognised and considered as a State Party.
- ▶ Most of the parties in India are classified by the Election Commission as 'State Parties'. These parties are actively involved in state politics and are commonly referred to as 'Regional Parties'.
- ▶ Political parties in our country are facing several challenges. Important among these are as follows:
 - ▶ Lack of internal democracy within parties.
 - ▶ Dynastic succession.
 - ▶ Money and muscle power.
 - ▶ No meaningful choice for the voters.

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Labour Party and Conservative Party of Britain are two parties which differ only on details of implementation rather than fundamental principles.

- ▶ In order to face the challenges, political parties need to be reformed. The following measures were taken:
 - ▶ The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties, since many elected representatives were indulging in defection in order to become ministers or for cash rewards.
 - ▶ In order to reduce the influence of money power and muscle power (criminals), the Supreme Court of our country passed an order. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate to file an affidavit giving details of his/her property and of criminal cases pending against him/her.

- ▶ The Election Commission passed an order for the political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.
- ▶ Beside these measures, many suggestions are made to reform political parties which are as follows:
 - ▶ 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,

follow its own constitution and 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.
- ▶ There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money, petrol, paper, telephone, etc., to support their election expenses.



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. What is meant by 'Political Party'?**
- A group of politically sound people
 - A group of people come together to contest elections to hold power in the government.
 - A group of people who want to be in power.
 - A group of people who want to amend the Constitution.
- Q 2. Which is not the component of a political party?**
- The leaders
 - The followers
 - The active members
 - The ministers
- Q 3. The clearly visible institutions of a democracy are:**
- people
 - societies
 - political parties
 - pressure groups
- Q 4. Which is not a function of political party?**
- To contest election
 - Faith in violent methods
 - Political education to the people
 - Form public opinion
- Q 5. Without the political parties, the utility of the government will remain:**
- uncertain
 - powerful
 - peaceful
 - None of these
- Q 6. is an organised group of person who come together to contest election and try to hold power in government.**
- Political party
 - Democracy
 - Parliament
 - None of these
- Q 7. Through which of these functions political parties exercise power?**
- Parties contest elections
 - They play a decisive role in making laws for a country
 - They form and run governments
 - All of the above
- Q 8. Who chooses the candidates for contesting elections in India?**
- Members and supporters of the party
 - Top party leadership
 - The existing government
 - None of the above

Q 9. The rise of political parties can be linked directly to the emergence of

- direct democracy
- dictatorship
- monarchy
- representative democracy

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Political parties are a symbol of representative democracy. They are groups of politically aware citizens who are interested in running the government/ country as representatives of common people.

- Q 10. The political parties of a country have a fundamental political in a society.**
- choice
 - division
 - support
 - power
- Q 11. Members of ruling party follows the directions of:**
- people
 - party leaders
 - pressure groups
 - None of these
- Q 12. In a democratic country, any group of citizens is free to form:**
- a political party
 - society
 - religion
 - All of these
- Q 13. Under which system, only one-party is allowed to function?**
- Single-party system
 - Bi-party system
 - Multi-party system
 - None of these
- Q 14. Which one of the following party systems is against the basic principle of democracy?**
- Multi-party system
 - Bi-party system
 - Single-party system
 - None of these
- Q 15. Which of the following countries have one-party system?**
- China
 - USA
 - UK
 - India
- Q 16. Which one of the following countries has two party system? (CBSE 2023)**
- China
 - Russia
 - America
 - India
- Q 17. What is the name of the alliance that formed the government in 1998 in India?**
- National Democratic Alliance
 - United Progressive Alliance
 - National Progressive Alliance
 - United Democratic Alliance

Q 18. Which of the following countries have bi-party system? (NCERT)

- a. United Kingdom and Belgium
- b. United States of America and Canada
- c. United Kingdom and United States of America
- d. All of the above

Q 19. Which of the following political party was founded in 1988?

- a. All India Trinamool Congress Party
- b. Nationalist Congress Party
- c. Aam Aadmi Party
- d. Bharatiya Janata Party

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All India Trinamool Congress was founded under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee and is currently ruling in West Bengal since 2011.

Q 20. In this party system, generally power changes between two main parties:

- a. Bi-party system
- b. Single-party system
- c. Multi-party system
- d. None of these

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In India, multi-party system is followed while in UK and USA two party (Bi-party) system is followed. Single party system is followed in China where the Chinese Communist Party is the ruling one since the country has got its independence in 1949.

Q 21. alliance formed by the Congress party.

- a. National Democratic Alliance (NDA)
- b. All India Congress (AIC)
- c. All India Congress Committee (AICC)
- d. United Progressive Alliance (UPA)

Q 22. What is the guiding philosophy of Bharatiya Janata Party?

- a. Cultural nationalism
- b. Religion above all
- c. No discrimination on the basis of caste
- d. Equal opportunity for all

Q 23. The Bahujan Samaj Party stands for what cause?

- a. Securing the interest of the oppressed people
- b. Equal rights for women
- c. No discrimination on the basis of religion
- d. Economic emancipation of women

Q 24. 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

Q 25. Uniform Civil Code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion is the agenda of:

- a. Indian National Congress
- b. Bharatiya Janata Party
- c. Nationalist Party of India
- d. Nationalist Congress Party

Q 26. When was the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) formed?

- a. 1956
- b. 1986
- c. 1946
- d. 1964

Q 27. Which of these statements is incorrect about (CPI-M)?

- a. Supports socialism, secularism and democracy
- b. Opposes imperialism and communalism
- c. Wants to secure socio-economic justice in India
- d. None of the above

Q 28. In which of these states does the (CPI-M) enjoy strong support?

- a. Uttar Pradesh
- b. Andhra Pradesh
- c. West Bengal
- d. Chhattisgarh

Q 29. Arrange political parties according to their year of formation in increasing order:

- (i) BSP
 - (ii) BJP
 - (iii) INC
 - (iv) CPI
- a. (i), (iv), (iii), (ii)
 - b. (iii), (iv), (i), (ii)
 - c. (iv), (i), (ii), (iii)
 - d. (iii), (iv), (ii), (i)

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The years of formation of given political parties are:

INC – 1885

CPI – 1925

BJP – 1980

BSP – 1984

Q 30. Which of the following is a regional party?

- a. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
- b. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
- c. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)
- d. Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)

Q 31. Which of the following statements are not associated with a regional political party in India?

- a. It gets 6 per cent of the total votes in the Lok Sabha election
- b. It gets 2 seats in the elections for State Legislatures
- c. It gets 6 per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State
- d. All of the above

Q 32. Which of the following institutions in India has passed an order for every candidate who contests elections to file an affidavit giving details of property and criminal cases?

- a. Supreme Court of India
- b. Election Commission of India
- c. Constitution of India
- d. All of the above

Q 33. Which of these alliances were there in 2004 parliamentary elections in India?

- a. National Democratic Alliance
- b. The United Progressive Alliance
- c. Left Front
- d. All of the above

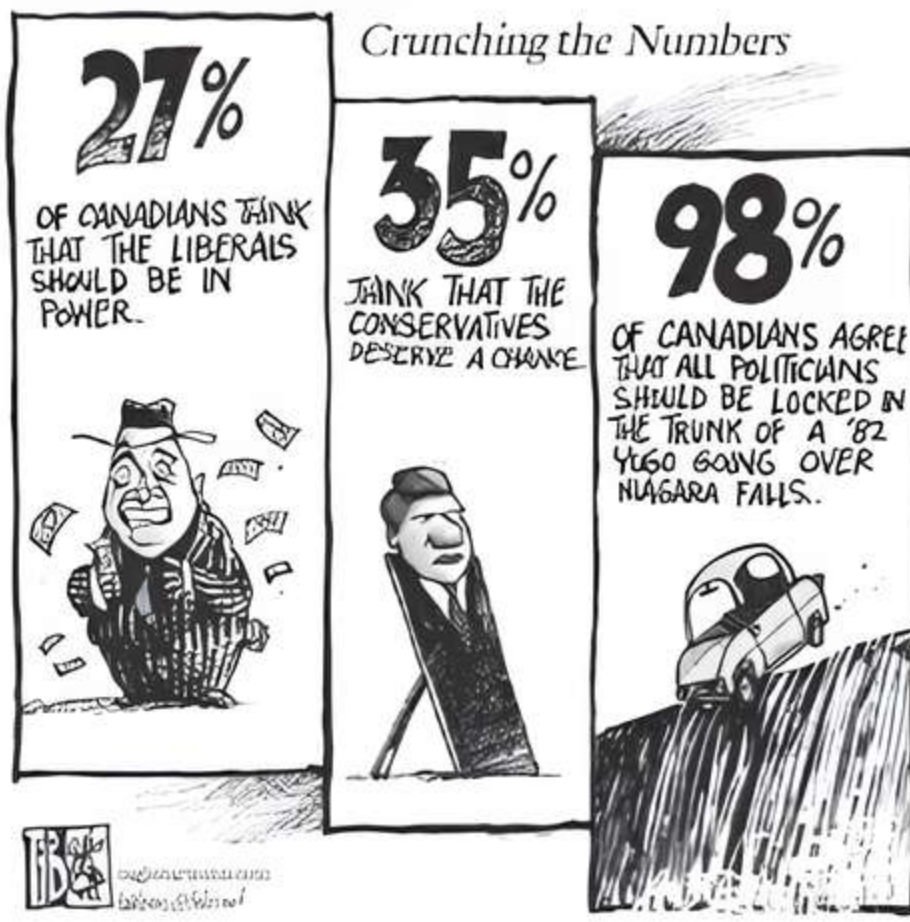
Q 34. What is a signed document submitted to an officer regarding his/her personal information known as:

- a. Affidavit
- b. Declaration
- c. Agreement
- d. Appeal

Q 35. Which of these statements is correct?

- a. Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission
- b. The Commission treats all the parties equally
- c. It offers some special facilities to large and established parties
- d. All of the above

Q 36. Study the following picture and answer the question that follows:



Which of the following best signifies this cartoon?

- a. People hate politics
- b. People want to throw away the politicians in Niagara Falls
- c. Political parties are one of the least trusted institutions all over the world
- d. People of Canada think that the Liberals should be in power.

Q 37. How many parties are registered with the Election Commission of India?

- a. 250
- b. 300
- c. 500
- d. More than 750

Q 38. Political parties can be reformed by:

- a. reducing the role of muscle power
- b. reducing the role of money
- c. state funding of elections
- d. All of the above

Q 39. Match the following and choose the correct option:

Column I	Column II
A. Single-party system	1. India
B. Bi-party system	2. China
C. Multi-party system	3. UK

- | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|------|---|---|
| A | B | C | A | B | C |
| a. 2 | 3 | 1 | b. 3 | 2 | 1 |
| c. 1 | 2 | 3 | d. 2 | 1 | 3 |

Q 40. Choose the correct pair from the following:

Column I (Political Parties)	Column II (Ideologies)
A. Bharatiya Janata Party	1. Uniform Civil Code
B. Bahujan Samaj Party	2. Supports new economic reforms with a human face
C. Indian National Congress	3. Believes in Marxism-Leninism
D. Communist Party of India	4. Seeks to represent and secure power for the Bahujan Samaj

- a. A-1
- b. B-2
- c. C-3
- d. D-4

Q 41. Read the information given below and choose the correct option:

It is one of the oldest parties of the world and was founded in 1885 and has experienced many splits. It has played a dominant role in Indian politics at the national and state level for several decades after India's Independence. Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the party sought to build a modern secular democratic republic in India.

- a. Communist Party of India (CPI)
- b. All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)
- c. Indian National Congress (INC)
- d. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

Q 42. The emergence of is directly connected to the rise of political parties. (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

- a. Monitory democracies
- b. Direct democracies
- c. Representative democracies
- d. Constitutional democracies

Q 43. Which of the following statements will be considered by a political party while forming a government? (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Statement (I): Representatives of different castes and tribes.

Statement (II): Representatives of all religions.

Statement (III): Representatives of the elite.

Statement (IV): Representatives of the Non-residents of India NRI.

- a. Statement (I) and (II) are right.
- b. Statement (I), (II) and (III) are right.
- c. Statement (III) is right.
- d. Only statement (IV) is right.

Q 44. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): India has parliamentary system of government.

Statement (II): Indian Parliament is bicameral.

Statement (III): Only those parties that are recognised as national parties can contest in elections for parliament.

- a. Statement (I) and (II) are right.
- b. Only statement (I) is right.
- c. Statement (I), (II) and (III) are right.
- d. Only statement (III) are right.

Q 45. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): Elections limit the power of a government.

Statement (II): In a democracy, all governments are elected for fixed periods in India. In India, this period is four year.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

Q 46. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): There is disparity within groups in the society.

Statement (II): The government recognises this disparity. And makes special provisions for groups with in society that are unequal.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 47-52): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

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

Q 47. **Assertion (A):** Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.

Reason (R): Opposition parties also mobilise opposition to the government.

Q 48. **Assertion (A):** Generally, political parties do not conduct internal elections regularly.

Reason (R): Personal loyalty to leaders becomes more important than the principles of the party.

Q 49. **Assertion (A):** India has multi-party system.

Reason (R): The multi-party system often appears very messy and leads to political instability.

Q 50. **Assertion (A):** One-party political system is not considered a good democratic system.

Reason (R): One-party system has no democratic option.

Q 51. **Assertion (A):** Political parties play the role of both party in power as well as opposition.

Reason (R): Concentration of power in one or few leaders leads to lack of internal democracy within political party.

Q 52. **Assertion (A):** India has a multiparty system.

Reason (R): It is because of the social and geographical diversities in India. (CBSE 2023)

Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (d) | 3. (c) | 4. (b) | 5. (a) |
| 6. (a) | 7. (d) | 8. (b) | 9. (d) | 10. (b) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (a) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) |
| 16. (c) | 17. (a) | 18. (c) | 19. (a) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (a) | 23. (a) | 24. (b) | 25. (b) |
| 26. (d) | 27. (d) | 28. (c) | 29. (d) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (a) | 33. (d) | 34. (a) | 35. (d) |
| 36. (c) | 37. (d) | 38. (d) | 39. (a) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (c) | 43. (a) | 44. (a) | 45. (a) |
| 46. (d) | 47. (b) | 48. (a) | 49. (b) | 50. (a) |
| 51. (b) | 52. (a) | | | |

Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Basically political parties fill political offices and exercise political power. Parties do so by performing a series of functions:

Parties contest elections: In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by political parties. Parties select their candidates in different ways. In some countries, such as the USA, members and supporters of a

party choose its candidates. Now more and more countries are following this method. In other countries like India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.

Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them. Each of us may have different opinions and views on what policies are suitable for the society. But no government can handle such a large variety of views. In a democracy, a large number of similar opinions have to be grouped together to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the governments. This is what the parties do. A party reduces a vast multitude of opinions into a few basic positions which it supports. A government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the ruling party.

Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally, laws are debated and passed in the legislature. But since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the direction of the party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinions.

Parties form and run governments as we noted last year, the big policy decisions are taken by political executive that comes from the political parties. Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want.

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. Opposition parties also mobilise opposition to the government.

Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues.

Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments.

Q 1. Which method is more popular in USA to choose a candidate for a political party?

- Members and supporter of a party choose candidates.
- Party leaders choose candidates.
- Members of Important business organisations choose candidates.
- None of the above

Q 2. In democracy how the policies can be formulated by the governments?

- From a large number of opinions, best are selected.
- Party reduces a large number of opinions into some basic principles.

- Prime Minister selects the policies.
- President suggests which are to be accepted as policies.

Q 3. For making a law, members of the legislature go by the:

- direction of the party leadership
- their personal choice
- direction of the President
- Both a. and c.

Q 4. Opposition parties can play their role:

- by voicing different views from the ruling party.
- by criticising governments for its failures or wrong policies.
- by mobilising opposition to the government.
- All of the above

Q 5. Parties shape public opinion and launch movements for:

- recruitment of leaders
- resolution of problems faced by people
- making changes in policies of government
- providing direction to policy formulation

Q 6. Two statements are given in the question below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the appropriate option:

Assertion (A): Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.

Reason (R): Party members follow the direction of party leaders instead of their personal opinions.

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answers

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (b) 6. (b)

Source 2

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

Popular dissatisfaction and criticism has focused on four problem areas in the working of political parties. Political parties need to face and overcome these challenges in order to remain effective instruments of democracy. The first challenge is lack of internal democracy within parties. All over the world there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top. Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings, and do not conduct internal elections regularly.

Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party. 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.

The second challenge of dynastic succession is related to the first one. 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. Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage to favour people close to them or even their family members.

The third challenge is about the growing role of money and muscle power in parties, especially during elections. Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts to win elections. The fourth challenge is that very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters. In order to offer meaningful choice, parties must be significantly different. In recent years there has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world.

Q 1. What should a political party do to remain an indispensable instrument of democracy?

Ans. A political party needs to face and overcome the challenges in order to remain an indispensable instrument of democracy.

Q 2. Why is there lack of internal democracy in political party?

Ans. There is lack of internal democracy in political party due to:

- (i) concentration of power in one or few leaders.
- (ii) not holding organisational meetings and internal elections.
- (iii) not keeping membership register. (Any two)

Q 3. Why do political parties not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters?

Ans. Political parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters as there is a decline in the ideological differences among parties.

Source 3

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

Democracies that follow a federal system all over the world tend to have two kinds of political parties: parties that are present in only one of the federal units and parties that are present in several or all units of the federation. This is the case in India as well. There are some countrywide parties, which are called 'national parties'. These 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 national level. 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 is 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.

Q 1. Who issues symbols to the political parties?

Ans. The Election Commission of India issues symbols to the political parties.

Q 2. What is the criteria laid down by the Election Commission to be recognised as a state party?

Ans. The criteria laid down by the Election Commission to be recognised as a state party are:

- (i) It must secure at least 6 per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state.
- (ii) It should win at least two seats.

Q 3. Which parties are called as recognised political parties?

Ans. The parties which are given a unique symbol i.e., only the official candidates of that party can use that election symbol are called recognised political parties.



Very Short Answer Type Questions ↘

Q 1. What is an important function of a political party in India?

Ans. An important function of a political party in India is to contest elections.

Q 2. Identify the function being performed by the activists of political party.

Ans. The political parties criticise the government for its failures or wrong policies.

Q 3. The government helps people at the time of natural disasters. Identify the function being performed by the leaders of the political party who run the government.

Ans. Political parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes.

Q 4. Give the meaning of a political party.

Ans. A political party is a group of people who aim to attain power in the government through elections.

Q 5. Suggest any one way to make political parties more responsive to the people's need and demand. (CBSE 2020)

Ans. Political parties can be made more responsive through organised petitions, agitations and publicity by various groups.

Q 6. Differentiate between one party and two party system. (CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2)

OR

How is one-party system different from two party system? Explain with examples. (CBSE 2022 Term-2)

Ans. Difference between one party and two party system are:

S. No.	Basis of Difference	One Party System	Two Party System
(i)	Definition	<u>Countries where only one party is allowed to control and run the government are called one party system.</u>	<u>Countries where only two main parties contest elections are called two party system.</u>
(ii)	Examples	<u>In China, only Communist Party is allowed to rule.</u>	<u>The United States of America and United Kingdom are examples of two party system.</u>

Q 7. Suggest anyone way to promote the public participation in the political parties for enhancing the quality of democracy. (CBSE 2020)

Ans. Public participation in the political parties can be promoted in the following ways:

- (i) Parties should make their election process more transparent and elect more candidates from among the common people.
- (ii) Various platforms like social media can be used to allocate them small responsibilities so as to maintain their interest in various activities of party.

Q 8. Why is one-party political system not considered a good democratic system? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. One-party political system is not considered a good democratic system as one-party system has no democratic option.

Q 9. Why did India adopt multi-party system? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. India adopted multi-party system because:

- (i) India is a large country and has social and geographical diversities.
- (ii) All these diversities can be accommodated if there is a multi-party system and just one-party or two-party system will not help in more representation and participation of people in democratic processes.

Q 10. Name the alliance formed by the Congress Party. (CBSE 2016)

Ans. United Progressive Alliance (UPA) is the alliance formed by the Congress Party.

Q 11. Which party was the principal opposition party in Lok Sabha in 2004? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was the principal opposition party in Lok Sabha in 2004.

Q 12. Name anyone political party that has national level political organisation but not recognised as the national political party. (CBSE 2016)

Ans. Samajwadi Party/Samata Party/Rashtriya Janata Dal has national level political organisation but is not recognised as the national political party.

Q 13. What is the guiding philosophy of Bharatiya Janata Party? (CBSE 2015)

Ans. The guiding philosophy of BJP is as follows:

- (i) Cultural nationalism
- (ii) India's ancient culture and values.

Q 14. Which organisation recognise 'political parties' in India? (CBSE 2017)

Ans. The Election Commission of India is responsible to recognise 'political parties' in India.

Q 15. Name any two regional parties of West Bengal.

Ans. The two regional parties of West Bengal are:

- (i) Marxist Forward Bloc
- (ii) All India Trinamool Congress

Q 16. What is the requirement laid down by the Election Commission for a political party to be recognised as a 'State Party'? (CBSE 2015)

Ans. 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 is recognised as a state party.

Q 17. Differentiate between ruling and opposition parties. (CBSE 2022 Term-2)

Ans. The party which wins the majority of seats in the election is known as the ruling party. On the other hand, the party which is not able to get the majority seats is known as the opposition party.

Q 18. If all the decisions of a political party are made by a single family and all other members are neglected, then what challenge is being faced by that party?

(CBSE 2015)

Ans. Challenge of dynastic succession is being faced by that party.

Q 19. Why do political parties involve partisanship?

Ans. Political parties involve partisanship because parties are about a part of the society and their identity political existence is defined by the policies they support and the interests they uphold.

Q 20. How can democratic reforms be carried out by political conscious citizens?

(CBSE 2019)

Ans. Democratic reforms can be carried out by political conscious citizens by improving the quality of participation by the citizens in political affairs. These reforms should be carried out so that the decision can be taken with complete awareness.



Short Answer Questions

Q 1. How do the political parties help in the formation of public opinion? Explain.

Ans. The ways in which political parties help in the formation of public opinion are:

- (i) The parties have lakhs of members and activists spread all over the country.
- (ii) Many pressure groups are the extension of political parties among different sections of the society.
- (iii) The parties also launch movements for the solution of problems faced by the people.
- (iv) The parties also raise and highlight public issues through mass media. (Any three)

Q 2. Describe any three main features of two-party system.

Ans. The main features of two-party system are:

- (i) People get a clear choice in such a system.
- (ii) Power usually changes between two parties and several other parties may exist.
- (iii) Prompt decisions can be taken and implemented.
- (iv) Strong opposition is good for democracy.
- (v) There is less corruption and more development in such a system. (Any three)

Q 3. What is meant by a 'national political party'? State the conditions required to be a national political party.

(CBSE 2016)

Ans. Parties that have units in the various states and follow the same policies, programmes and strategy decided at the national level are called national political parties.

The conditions required to be a national political party are:

- (i) The party secures at least 6 per cent of the total votes in general elections of Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four states.
- (ii) The party wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha.

Q 4. When was the BJP formed? Mention its major ideologies.

(CBSE 2016)

Ans. The BJP was founded in 1980 by reviving the erstwhile Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Its features and ideologies are as follows:

- (i) The party wants to build a strong and modern India by drawing inspiration from India's ancient culture and values.
- (ii) Cultural nationalism or Hindutva is an important element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.
- (iii) The party wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.
- (iv) A common civil code for all the people living in the country irrespective of religion, and ban on religious conversions is also sought by the party.

Q 5. Name the national political party which espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities. Mention any four features of that party.

Ans. The national political party which espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities is Indian National Congress (INC).

The four features of this party are listed below:

- (i) It was founded in 1885.
- (ii) It dominated Indian politics, both at the national and state levels for several decades after India's independence.
- (iii) It became the ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then from 1980 to 1989. After 1989, its support declined.
- (iv) It was a centrist party (neither rightist nor leftist in its ideological orientation).

Q 6. Differentiate between the ideologies of Indian National Congress (INC) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

(CBSE 2017)

Ans. The INC believes in applied socialism and secularism that satisfy all sections and subsections of the society. The party favours a fusion of capitalism and socialism, and secularism is at the nucleus of the party's political ideology.

BJP's political ideology has been based on religion for a better part of its existence and it advocated the Ram Janmabhoomi issue in its initial years. The BJP believes in a sovereign Hindu state as the ultimate political identity of the nation. Politically the party is more nationalistic than socialistic.

Q 7. What is meant by regional political party? State the conditions required to be recognised as a regional political party. (CBSE 2016)

Ans. Parties which are actively involved in state politics are referred to as regional political parties.

The conditions required to be recognised as a regional party are as follows:

- (i) It should secure at least 6 per cent votes in State Legislative Assembly.
- (ii) It should win at least two seats in State Legislative Assembly.



TIP

Percentage of votes and seats should be remembered properly to write this answer.

Q 8. How are political parties recognised as regional and national parties in India? Explain with examples. (CBSE 2019)

Ans. The political parties are recognised as regional and national parties in India by the Election Commission on the following bases:

- (i) **National Party:** It is a party that secures at least 6 per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha election or Assembly in four states and wins at least four seats in Lok Sabha. For example BJP, Indian National Congress etc.
- (ii) **Regional Party:** It is a party that secures at least 6 per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state and win at least two seats. For example Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena, DMK etc.

COMMON ERROR

Some students forget or do not mention the examples of each party.

Q 9. Explain how the rise of political parties are directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies. (CBSE 2022 Term-2)

Ans. The rise of political parties are directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies in the following ways:

- (i) When societies develop and expand, they become more complex in terms of social, economic and political relations. So, they need representatives from parties to sustain governance.
- (ii) Political parties tend to provide the base on which the representative government is built.
- (iii) They gather public views on various important issues, articulate them and present them to the government.
- (iv) Existence of political parties in a representative democracy ensures that country runs as per its policies and ideologies and has a responsible accountable government which is answerable to the people.

Q 10. State the condition as laid down by the Election Commission to recognise a 'state party and national party'.

Ans. The conditions as laid down by the Election Commission to recognise a state party and national party are:

- (i) In a state party, the party members aim to highlight the regional interests. On the other hand, a national party gives due importance to national interests.
- (ii) A state party can contest in elections only in a particular state, whereas a national party can contest in elections all across the country.
- (iii) Example: BJP and Congress are national parties, whereas Akali Dal and Trinamool Congress are state level parties.

Q 11. "Nearly everyone 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 2016)

Ans. The given statement can be supported by the following arguments:

- (i) Over the last three decades, the number and strength of state parties has expanded. This has made the Parliament of India politically more diverse.
- (ii) No single national party has been able to secure on its own a majority in Lok Sabha. As a result, the national parties are compelled to form alliances with state parties.
- (iii) Since 1996, nearly everyone 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 in our country.
- (iv) The state parties also want to be a part of the national level coalition because it helps to expand their base and ensure national level recognition for them. (Any three)

Q 12. How do money and muscle power play an important role in elections? Explain. (CBSE 2015)

OR

Exhibit the role of money and muscle power among political parties during elections.

(CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2)

Ans. Money and muscle power play an important role in elections in the following ways:

- (i) Due to focus on winning elections, parties tend to use shortcuts to win elections.
- (ii) Parties tend to nominate the candidates who have or can raise lots of money.
- (iii) Rich people and companies tend to have an influence on the policies and decisions of the party by providing funds to them.
- (iv) Parties support criminals in many cases who can win the elections. (Any three)



Q 13. What is meant by defection in democracy? Explain.

Ans. Defection in democracy means moving of a person from one party to another party for some personal benefits. It means changing party allegiance from the party in which a person got elected.

The explanation are as follows:

- (i) Defection happens when a legislature after having been elected from a particular party leaves it and joins in other party.
- (ii) According to the amended constitution, if any MP and MLA changes parties, he or she will lose seat in the legislature. The new Law has brought defection down and has made dissent even more difficult.

COMMON ERROR

Students don't give complete explanation of defection in points.

Q 14. Explain the merits of multi-party system.

(CBSE 2023)

Ans. The merits of multi-party system are:

- (i) This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.
- (ii) People can make a choice between several candidates.

Q 15. Explain the role of Regional Parties in India democracy.

(CBSE 2023)

Ans. The role of Regional Parties in Indian democracy are:

- (i) They provide better governance and a stable government at the regional level.
- (ii) They make politics more competitive and popular participation in the political process more extensive at the grass roots.
- (iii) They widen the choice for voters in both the parliamentary and assembly elections.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What is meant by a political party? Describe the three components of a political party. (CBSE 2015)

Ans. Meaning of Political Party: A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government, e.g., Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

It has the following three components:

- (i) **The Leaders:** The leaders lead the party and their vision is instrumental in taking the party forward. They guide the workers and formulate the policies and programmes according to which the party works.

- (ii) **The Active Members:** The active members work at grass roots and implement the policies and programmes of the party. They also work to strengthen the support for the party.

- (iii) **The Followers:** These are common people who have faith in the ideologies of the party. They vote for the party during elections. Their support helps the party to win elections.

Q 2. Describe any five major functions of political parties performed in a democracy. (CBSE 2018)

OR

Describe any five functions of political party.

OR

(CBSE 2020)

Explain the role of political parties in a democracy. (CBSE 2019)

OR

Examine the role of political parties in a democratic country. (CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2)

OR

"Political parties play an important role in democratic countries." Justify the statement.

(CBSE 2022 Term-2)

OR

Explain any five major functions of the political parties. (CBSE 2023)

Ans. The main functions of a political party are as follows:

- (i) **To Contest Elections:** In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by political parties. In India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.

- (ii) **Forming Policies and Programmes:** Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them. Each of them may have different opinions and views on what policies are suitable for the society.

- (iii) **Making Laws:** When parties come to power, they make laws for the country. Formally, laws are debated and subject to voting.

- (iv) **Parties Form and Run Governments:** The party which attains majority forms the government and administers the country.

- (v) **Role of Opposition:** Parties that lose in the elections, play the role of opposition by criticising the government for its failures or wrong policies.

- (vi) **Shaping Public Opinion:** Parties raise and highlight issues. Parties have members and activists spread all over the country. Many of the pressure groups are the extension of political parties among different sections of society. Parties, sometimes also launch movements to shape public opinion.

(vii) **Access to Government Machinery and Welfare Schemes:** For an ordinary citizen, it is easy to approach a local party leader than a government officer. That is why parties ensure access to government machinery and welfare schemes. (Any five)

Q 3. What is a political party? Explain any four characteristics of a political party. (CBSE 2019)

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 promoting national interest.

The characteristics of a political party are:

- (i) Political parties contest elections and share power.
- (ii) Political parties shape public opinion and act as the face of democracy and government.
- (iii) If elected, they form and run the government and if unable to win a majority, they form an alliance with other parties to form a coalition government.
- (iv) Political parties agree on some policies and programmes for the society to promote collective good.

COMMON ERROR

Students mention the functions of the political party instead of its characteristics.

Q 4. Explain the necessity of political parties in a democracy. (CBSE 2019)

OR

Describe the necessity of political parties in democratic countries. (CBSE 2020)

OR

"Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy." Analyse the statement with examples.

(CBSE 2016)

Ans. Political parties are the axis of the government. It is very difficult to imagine a democracy without the political parties due to the given reasons:

- (i) Without political parties, every candidate in the elections will become independent. So, no one will be able to make any promise to the people about any major policy changes and new policies.
- (ii) As societies became large and complex, they also need some agency to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government. This is fulfilled by the political parties.
- (iii) The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies. Large scale societies need a representative democracy.
- (iv) The government may be formed, but its utility will remain uncertain. Elected representatives

will be accountable to their constituencies only. But no one will be responsible as to how the country will run.

- (v) The role of an opposition party in a democracy necessitates the existence of political parties.



TIP

Instead of writing needs to have political parties in a democracy, students write role of ruling parties so, be careful while answering.

Q 5. What is meant by bi-party or two-party system? Explain its two advantages and disadvantages.

Ans. A country in which only two parties contest elections to come to power is called bi-party or two-party system.

Advantages of this system are as follows:

- (i) In this party system, the government is stable as it comes to power by majority.
- (ii) In this system, opposition is strong and effective.

Disadvantages of this system are as follows:

- (i) Sometimes, it is considered as undemocratic as the ideological choice is limited between two parties. Also public opinion cannot be expressed properly.
- (ii) It is difficult to remove the government and it can result in the dictatorship of the cabinet, i.e., the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers can dictate the nation.

Knowledge BOOSTER



America has a two-party system comprising of the Republicans and the Democrats.

Q 6. What is a multi-party system? Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain.

OR

"Multi-party has been strengthening in India."

Explain the statement. (CBSE 2016)

(CBSE 2016)

OR

Analyse the role of a multi-party system in a democratic country like India. (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. A multi-party system is one in which more than two parties contest elections.

We have multi-party system in India because of the following reasons:

- (i) India is a vast country with great social and geographical diversity. People speak different languages, profess different religions and pursue different customs and traditions.
- (ii) Some areas or regions are very prosperous while others are underdeveloped and backward. As a result, all the diversities cannot be absorbed and looked after only by one or two parties.



- (iii) Since multiple party systems allow various interests and opinions to enjoy political representation, therefore India has adopted this system.
- (iv) A large number of regional and state level parties like DMK, Telugu Desam, Indian National Lok Dal, Akali Dal and National Conference, etc., have been established to look after the regional interests.

Q 7. Identify and list the following political parties as National and Regional political parties:

- (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 (CBSE 2019)

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

Q 8. Define 'Political Party'. Describe any four main challenges faced by the Indian political parties.

OR (CBSE 2020)

Explain/Examine any five major challenges faced by the political parties in India.

(CBSE 2022 Term-2, CBSE 2023)

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

The various challenges faced by the Indian political parties are as follows:

- (i) **Lack of Internal Democracy:** It is the most important challenge which most of the political parties face. All over the world, there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top. The parties do not hold their routine organisational meetings, fail to conduct their internal elections regularly and refuse to share information. Those who disagree with the top leadership find it difficult to continue in power.

- (ii) **Dynastic Succession:** There are some parties which are generally controlled by one family. After father, his son becomes the head of the party which results in the following:

- (a) There are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top.
- (b) Top leaders favour their family members and friends.
- (c) Members who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power just because they belong to a particular family.

- (iii) **Money and Muscle Power:** The third challenge is about the growing role of the money and muscle power in parties which is specially observed during elections. Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to influence the policies and decisions of the party. In some cases, parties take help from criminals to win elections.

- (iv) **Lack of Meaningful Choices to the Voters:** The fourth challenge is that very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters. In our country, all political parties have basically the same ideologies and policies. Thus, people have no real option available to them.

- (v) **Negative Politics:** Most of the political parties follow negative politics, i.e., just criticising the opposite party. This diverts the attention of the people from the core issues. (Any four)

Q 9. "Lack of internal democracy within parties is the major challenge to political parties all over the world." Analyse the statement. (CBSE 2015, 16)

Ans. There are various reasons for lack of internal democracy within the political parties:

- (i) Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings and do not conduct internal elections regularly.
- (ii) Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party.
- (iii) They do not have the means needed to influence the decisions. So, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.
- (iv) Since very few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who disagree with the leadership find it difficult to continue in the party.
- (v) Personal loyalty to the leader becomes more important than the loyalty to party principles and policies.

Q 10. "Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the political parties." Analyse the statement. (CBSE 2015)

Ans. Dynastic succession is the major challenge for the political parties in India due to the following reasons:

- (i) Since most political parties do not practise open and transparent procedures for their functioning, there are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party.
- (ii) Those, who happen to be the leaders, are in a position of unfair advantage to favour people close to them or even their family members. In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family. This is unfair to other members of that party.
- (iii) Dynastic succession does not allow the grass root level workers to reach the top. If one looks at the database of all the MPs in the Parliament, one can find that less than 50% of the MPs come into politics from the grass root levels, while most of the women MPs entered the politics through family connections.
- (iv) Dynastic succession is the major factor responsible for lack of internal democracy in a political party. Due to lack of internal democracy, some leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.
- (v) Due to dynastic succession, many parties are unable to hold regular elections for the top leader.

Knowledge BOOSTER

In India, the Congress Party faces this challenge as the President is usually of the Gandhi family.

Q 11. Describe the efforts to reform political parties in India. (CBSE 2020)

OR

Describe any five efforts made to reform political parties in India. (CBSE 2017)

OR

What steps can be taken to reform the political parties in India? Suggest any four steps. (CBSE 2016)

Ans. Measures to strengthen/reform political parties in India are as follows:

- (i) **Provision of State Funding of Elections:** The provision of state funding of elections should be made. The government should give parties money to support their election expenses. This support could be given in kind or in cash on the basis of the votes secured by the party in the last election.

- (ii) **Regulation of Internal Affairs of Political Parties:** A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties to maintain a register of its members, to follow its own Constitution, to have an independent authority, and to hold open elections for the highest posts.

- (iii) **Provisions to Minimise the Number of Candidates:** It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets about one-third to the women candidates. There should be a quota for women in the decision-making bodies of the party.

- (iv) **Pressure on Political Parties:** People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and agitations. Ordinary citizens, pressure groups and movements and media can play an important role in this. In this regard, if political parties feel that they would lose public support by not taking up reforms, they would become more serious about reforms.

- (v) **Provision of Elections:** 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 a mere formality.

Q 12. Evaluate the significant distinction between the national and regional parties and assess the requirements for a regional party to become a national party. (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. Difference between national and regional parties are:

S.No.	National Parties	Regional Parties
(i)	National parties are powerful in the nation, it deals with national issues.	Regional parties' power is limited to a specific region or state only.
(ii)	National parties' actions offer preference to national issues over regional problems	Regional parties' operations are confined to the country or the state in which they work, concentrating mostly on local issues.
(iii)	Instances of national parties are the BJP, Congress and BSP.	Instances of regional parties are DMK, AAM Aadmil Party.

A regional party must gain at least 6 per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha or assembly elections in four states to be a national party and win at least four seats in Lok Sabha.



Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. What is the guiding philosophy of Bharatiya Janata Party?
- Cultural nationalism
 - Religion above all
 - No discrimination on the basis of caste
 - Equal opportunity for all
- Q 2. Which of the following institutions in India has passed an order for every candidate who contests elections to file an affidavit giving details of property and criminal cases?
- Supreme Court of India
 - Election Commission of India
 - Constitution of India
 - All of the above
- Q 3. The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of:
- monetary democracies
 - direct democracies
 - representative democracies
 - constitutional democracies
- Q 4. "Political parties are most visible institutions in a democracy." Identify the incorrect statement.
- Even less educated citizens know about political parties.
 - Ordinary citizens' democracy is equal to political parties.
 - Parties have become identified with social and political divisions.
 - Most people in a democracy are not critical of political parties.
- Q 5. Which of these is true regarding the party system of any country?
- The constitution lays down party system.
 - No country can choose its party system.
 - People choose their party system.
 - Important leaders choose their party system.

Assertion and Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 6-7): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 6. Assertion (A): Generally, political parties do not conduct internal elections regularly.

Reason (R): Personal loyalty to leaders becomes more important than the principles of the party.

Q 7. Assertion (A): In a democratic country, any group of citizens is free to form a political party.

Reason (R): Without the political parties, the utility of the government will remain uncertain.

Source Based Question

Q 8. Read the source given below and answer questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Basically political parties fill political offices and exercise political power. Parties do so by performing a series of functions:

- Parties contest elections: In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by political parties. Parties select their candidates in different ways. In some countries, such as the USA, members and supporters of a party choose its candidates. Now more and more countries are following this method. In other countries like India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.
- Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them. Each of us may have different opinions and views on what policies are suitable for the society. But no government can handle such a large variety of views. In a democracy, a large number of similar opinions have to be grouped together to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the governments. This is what the parties do. A party reduces a vast multitude of opinions into a few basic positions which it supports. A government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the ruling party.
- Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally, laws are debated and passed in the legislature. But since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the direction of the party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinions.
- Parties form and run governments as we noted last year, the big policy decisions are taken by political executive that comes from the political parties. Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make ministers to run the government in the way they want.

- 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. Opposition parties also mobilise opposition to the government.
- Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues.
- Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments.

(i) Which method is more popular in USA to choose a candidate for a political party?

- Members and supporter of a party choose candidates.
- Party leaders choose candidates.
- Members of important business organisations choose candidates.
- None of the above

(ii) In democracy how the policies can be formulated by the governments?

- From a large number of opinions, best are selected.
- Party reduces a large number of opinions into some basic principles.
- Prime Minister selects the policies.
- President suggests which are to be accepted as policies.

(iii) For making a law, members of the legislature go by the:

- direction of the party leadership.
- their personal choice.
- direction of the President
- Both a. and c.

(iv) Opposition parties can play their role:

- by voicing different views from the ruling party.
- by criticising governments for its failures or wrong policies.
- by mobilising opposition to the government.
- All of the above

(v) Who chooses the candidates for contesting elections in India?

- Members and supporters of the party
- Top party leadership
- The existing government
- None of the above.

(vi) Two statements are given in the question below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the appropriate option:

Assertion (A): Political parties play a major role in democracy.

Reason (R): Political parties are rightly called the government in disguise.

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 9. Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain.

Q 10. What are the two ways for carrying out political reforms in a democratic country?

Short Answer Type Questions

Q 11. Why can't modern democracies exist without the political parties? Explain any three reasons.

Q 12. "Nearly everyone 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.

Q 13. How do money and muscle power play an important role in elections? Explain.

Long Answer Type Questions

Q 14. What is meant by national parties? State the criteria for recognising a party as National and State party.

Q 15. Examine any two institutional amendments made by different institutions to reform political parties and their leaders.