

## **Chapter-6**

### **Political parties**

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#### **1 marks Questions**

**1. Which of the following is the most visible institutions in a democracy?**

- (a) Leaders**
- (b) Political parties**
- (c) Govt.**
- (d) People**

**Ans. (b) Political parties**

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**2. How many political parties are registered with the election commission of India?**

- (a) Less than 100**
- (b) Between 100 to 500**
- (c) Between 500 to 750**
- (d) More than 750**

**Ans. (d) More than 750**

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**3. A Political party has to satisfy the following criteria to be recognized as a national party—**

- (a) 6% votes of total votes in Lok sabha or assembly elections of four status**
- (b) At least 6 Lok sabha seats**
- (c) 12% votes of total votes in Lok sabha**
- (d) At least 12 Lok sabha seats**

**Ans. (a) 6% votes of total votes in Lok sabha or assembly elections of four status**

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**4. How many political parties were recognized as National parties in India in 2006?**

- (a) 06**
- (b) 16**
- (c) 750**
- (d) 21**

**Ans. (a) 06**

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**5. How many Lok sabha constituencies are there in India at present?**

- (a) 540**
- (b) 543**
- (c) 547**
- (d) 563**

**Ans. (a) 540**

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**6. Area wise which is the largest Lok sabha constituency in India?**

- (a) Karol Bag**
- (b) Ghaziabad**
- (c) Mumbai Cart**
- (d) Ladakh**

**Ans. (d) Ladakh**

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**7. The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) came to power in 1998 as the leader of**

- (a) United progressive Alliance**
- (b) Left front**
- (c) National Democratic**
- (d) None of these**

**Ans. (c) National Democratic**

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**8. Which party system does India follow—**

- (a) Single party system**
- (b) Two party system**
- (c) Multi party system**
- (d) All of them**

**Ans.** (c) Multi party system

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**9. What is Bye –election?**

- (a) Elections held to fill a vacancy caused by the death or any other house.**
- (b) Election held after a specific period.**
- (c) Election held to form the new govt.**
- (d) Election held in between the fixed term of the house.**

**Ans.** a) Elections held to fill a vacancy caused by the death or any other house.

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**10. Who is the founder of the Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP)**

- (a) Jyotiba Phule**
- (b) Kanshi Ram**
- (c) B. R. Ambudkar**
- (d) Maya Vati**

**Ans.** b) Kanshi Ram

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**11. Who exercise the real power in the Democracy?**

**Ans.** Citizens of the country

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**12. What is Partisan?**

**Ans.** A person who is strongly committed to a party, group or faction. Partisanship is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue.

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**13. What are bye elections?**

**Ans.** Elections which are held to fill a vacancy caused by the death of any elected member or of any other reason, for example defection.

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**14. Name the oldest recognized Political Party of India?**

**Ans.** Indian National Congress

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**15. Which Political party draws inspiration from the Ideas and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, J Phule and Sahu Maharaj?**

**Ans.** Bahujan Samaj Party.

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**16. Name the National Political Party who is against the conversion of religion?**

**Ans.** Bharatiya Janta Party

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**17. Name the political Party who wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India?**

**Ans.** Bharatiya Janta Party

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**18. What are leftist Parties?**

**Ans.** Left often refers to those who are in favor of the poor, downtrodden section and support government policies for the benefit of these sections.

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**19. When was CPI-M founded?**

**Ans.** . Communist party of India-Marxist was founded in 1964.

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**20. What is Multi- Party system?**

**Ans.** If several parties compete for power, and more than two parties have reasonable

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chances of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others, we call it a multi-party system.

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**21. Which type of party system exists in China?**

**Ans.** One party system

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**22. Name the regional political party predominant in Nagaland?**

**Ans.** Nagaland People's Front

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**23. United Kingdom is an example of which party system?**

**Ans.** Two party system

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**24. Which institution has passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational election and file their income tax return?**

**Ans.** Supreme Court

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**25. What do you understand from ruling party?**

**Ans.** Political party that runs government is a ruling party.

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**26. What is an alliance?**

**Ans.** When several parties join hands to contest elections.

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**27. What is symbol of Samajwadi Party?**

**Ans.** Cycle.

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**28. Which is the oldest recognized political party of India?**

**Ans.** Indian National Congress

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**29. How many political parties are recognized with the Election Commission?**

**Ans.** 750 political parties

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**30. Which state has the maximum recognized regional parties?**

**Ans.** Tamil Nadu

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**31. Why do we need political parties?**

**Ans.** 1. Political parties are easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy.

2. For most ordinary citizens, political parties are equal to democracy.

3. Political parties helped in making public opinion and forming the govt.

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**32. Describe the merits of a multi party system in thru points.**

**Ans.** 1. More than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others

2. This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

3. In India we have multi party system and the coalition govt. for last 15 years which benefits all sections of the population.

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**33. What are the characteristics of a political party?**

**Ans.** 1. It is a group of people coming together to contest elections and share power.

2. It agrees on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote collective good.

3. It tends to implement these policies by viewing popular support through elections.

4. It is known by which part it stands for, which policies it supports and whose interest it upholds.

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**34 What is the role of opposition party in democracy**

**Ans.** 1. Constructive criticism of govt.

2. Restriction of arbitrariness of ruling party

3. Safeguard, liberty and rights of the people

4. Well prepared to form govt.

5. Expression of public opinion

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**35. Give an account of the functions (any four) of political parties**

**Ans.** 1. They educate the masses, through their meetings and propaganda about various problems facing the country

2. Helps in the formation of public opinion

3. They contest elections and try to get the maximum number of their candidates elected

4. They serve as a link between the govt. and the people

5. The party which gets an absolute majority, forms the govt. others form opposition

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**36. “The rise of political parties is linked to the emergence of representative democracies.” Comment on the statement.**

**Ans.** 1. As a society becomes large and complex they also need some agencies together with different views on various issues and to present these to the govt.

2. They need some ways to bring various representatives together so that a responsible govt. can be formed.

3. They need a mechanism to support and restrain the govt. make policies, justify or oppose them.

### **3 marks Questions**

**1. What are the main functions of a political party?**

**Ans.** 1. To contest election

2. Forming policies and programmes

3. Making laws

4. Parties form and run govt.

5. To play an active role of opposition

6. Shaping public opinion

7. Access to govt. machinery and welfare schemes

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**2. What are the challenges between political parties in India?**

**Ans.** Following points can be given with explanation as the challenges of political parties in India—

1. Lack of internal democracy

2. Lack of transparency

3. Use of money and muscle power

4. Not providing meaningful choice to the voter

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**3. Mention the features of Congress party in India?**

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- Ans.** 1. Congress party was founded in 1885 and has experienced many splits.
2. It was ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then in 1980-89, 2000 to till date
3. This party supports secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities.
4. It supports new economic reforms but with a human face.
5. It emerged as the largest party with 145 seats in the Lok Sabha elections in 2004.
6. It currently leads the ruling united progressive alliance (UPA) coalition govt. at the centre.
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**4. Name six National Political Parties of India along with their symbols.**

- Ans.** 1. Indian National Congress Hand
2. Bharatiya Janta Party Lotus
3. Bahujan Samaj Party Elephant
4. Communist Party of India-(Marxist) Sickle, Hammer and Star
5. Communist Party of India Sickle and Wheat
6. Nationalist Congress Party Clock
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**5. Explain the requirements fulfilled by a political party to become a national political party.**

- Ans.** 1. The party has to secure at least six percent of the total votes in the Lok Sabha elections.
2. Six percent of the total votes in the state Assembly elections and win at least four seats in the Lok Sabha protected against the marketing of goods and delivery of services that are hazardous to life and property.
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**6. Write down the name of regional political party dominant in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal.**

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**Ans.** 1. Andhra Pradesh- Telgu Desam Party (1982), Telangana Rashtra Sammiti(2001)

2. Karnataka- Janata Dal (secular)1999

3. West Bengal- Forward Bloc (1940), Revolutionary Socialist Party (1940), Trinamool Congress (1977).

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**7. Why are symbols allotted to political parties by the election commission of India? Give reason?**

**Ans.** 1. For the recognition of the political parties the symbols are required.

2. It means party is large and established.

3. Only the official candidates of the political party can use it.

4. Voters can cast their vote easily.

5. One can easily recognize the party is either a national or regional party.

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**8. What is a political party? What are the components of a political party?**

**Ans.** A political party is an association of people who come together to contest elections and keen to hold power in the government. Political parties put forward different policies and programs and the voters choose for them. Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Following are the components

1. The Leaders.

2. The Active Members.

3. The followers

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**9. Explain the constitutional measures to counter challenges faced by political parties.**

**Ans.** 1. The constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. This is called anti defection law.

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2. The Supreme Court made it mandatory for every candidate to file an affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him.
  3. The Election Commission made it necessary for political parties to hold elections and file their Income tax Returns.
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**10. Write down the parameters laid down by the Election Commission of India to recognize the State Political Parties and National Political Parties.**

- Ans.** 1. Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission.
2. In a state party the party members aim to highlight the regional interest. On the other hand, a national party gives due importance to national interests.
  3. State party: A party that secures at least six percent of the total votes in the election to the Legislative assembly of a state and wins at least two seats is recognized as a state party.
  4. National party: A party secure at least six percent of the total votes in the Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized as a national party.
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**11. Give a brief introduction of BJP and Elaborate the Ideology of this Political party.**

- Ans.** 1. It believes in a strong and modern India which draws its inspirations from its ancient cultural and values.
2. In its ideological orientation the BJP is a rightist party.
  3. It wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir.
  4. This party is against the religious conversion.
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**12. "BJP wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir". Explain the Article 307 of Indian Constitution, according to which, Jammu and Kashmir is enjoying special privileges.**

**This party is against the religious conversion.**

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**Ans.** 1. Though Jammu and Kashmir is a state like other states of India, yet under Instrument of Accession, it is given a special status and for this purpose Article-370 is inserted into the constitution under which in comparison to other states of India Jammu and Kashmir is given more autonomy.

2. Jammu and Kashmir has a separate constitution.

3. Many articles of Indian Constitution of India do not apply to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. For example article -3 of Indian Constitution.

4. The people of other states cannot purchase property there.

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### **13. How can the quality of democracy be improved in a country like India?**

**Ans.** 1. Quality of democracy depends on active public participation, instead of criticism of the government.

2. Not only political parties, but ordinary citizens, pressure groups and movements and the media, all must work towards improving democracy.

3. Values such as honesty must be included at an early age so that people learn to be corruption free.

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### **14. What is meant by defection in democracy? Explain.**

**Ans.** Defection in politics means changing political party to another party for some personal benefits. It means changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party. It happens when a legislature, after having been elected from a particular party leaves it and joins in other party.

To prevent this custom of changing party legislature of India made a law that is anti defection law. The constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. Now the law says that if any MLA and MP 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.

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**15.Name the National political party that has been in power in West Bengal for 30 years? Write any two points related to this political party.**

**Ans.** Communist party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)

1. Founded in 1964. Believes in Marxism-Leninism, supports socialism, secularism and communalism.
  2. Accepts democratic elections as a useful means for securing the objective of socio-economic justice in India.
  3. Has been in power in West Bengal without a break for 30 years.
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**16. Who was Berlusconi? Elaborate his business.**

**Ans.** 1. Berlusconi was the prime Minister of Italy.

2. He is also one of the top businessmen in Italy.

3. He is the leader of the Forza Italia founded in 1993.

4. His company owns TV channels, the most important publishing company a football club and a bank.

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**17. Which national party draws inspiration from the teachings of Mahatma Phule and Periyar? Write any three points related to this party.**

**Ans.** Bahujan Samaj Party draws inspiration from the ideas and teachings of Sahu maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker and Babasaheb Ambedkar.

1. BSP was formed in 1984 under the leadership of Kanshi Ram.

2. This party seeks to represent and secure power for the bahujan samaj which includes the Dalits, adivasies, OBCs and religious minorities.

3. It stands for the cause of securing the interests and welfare of the dalits and oppresses people.

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**18. Write a short not on Communist Party of India.**

- Ans.** 1. Communist party of India formed in 1925. Believes in Marxist-Leninism, secularism and democracy.
2. Opposed to the forces of secessionism and communalism.
3. Accepts parliamentary democracy as a means of promoting the interests of the working class, farmers and the poor.
4. Became weak after the split in 1964 that led to the formation of the CPI (M).
5. Significant presence in the state of Kerala, west Bengal, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

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**19. Suggest some measures to reform financial position of political parties in India?**

- Ans.** 1. It should be mandatory for political party to submit its audited annual financial statement.
2. It is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him.
3. There should be state funding of elections. The government should give money to parties to meet their election expenses.
4. The financial accounts of every political party should be made public. These accounts should be examined by government auditors.

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**20. Elaborate the role of public in the reformation of political parties.**

- Ans.** 1. People can put pressure on political parties. This can be done through petitions, publicity and agitations.
2. Ordinary citizens, pressure groups and movements and media can play an important role in this.
3. If political Parties feel that they would lose public support by not taking up reforms, they

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would become more serious about reforms.

4. The quality of democracy depends on the degree of political participation. It is difficult to reform politics if ordinary citizens do not take part in it and simply criticize it from outside.

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**21. “A decline in the ideological differences among political parties is major challenge” Explain this challenge with suitable arguments.**

**Ans.** 1. In recent years there has been a decline in the ideological difference among parties in most parts of the world.

2. For example the difference between the Labour Party and the Conservative party in Britain is very little. They agree on more fundamental aspects but differ only in details on how policies are to be formed and implemented.

3. In our country too, the differences among all the major parties on the economic policies have reduced.

4. Those who want really different policies have no option available to them. Sometimes people cannot even elect very different leaders either, because the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another.

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**22. Why is there a lack of internal democracy within the political parties in India? Give reasons.**

**Ans.** 1. Concentration of power in **one or few leaders** at the top.

2. **Details of membership** are not registered in the parties.

3. **No organizational** meetings.

4. **No internal elections** for membership within the party.

Top leaders have **unanimous power** of decision-making

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**23. How do political parties help in shaping public opinion? Explain.**

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**Ans. 1.** The raise and **highlight issues**.

2. They form pressure groups as **extended arms**.

3. The launch movements for the **resolution of problems** faced by the people.

4. They **have lakhs of members** and activists.

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**24. What do you understand by the Bi-party system? Write its one merit and one demerit?**

**Ans. Two-party system:** In some countries, power usually changes between **two main parties**. Several other parties may exist, contest elections and win a few seats in the national legislatures. But only the two main parties have a serious chance of **winning majority of seats to form government**. Such a party system is called two-party system.

**1.Merit:** This system **allows stability** of government as no coalition is there.

**2. Demerit:** In this system, only two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority seats to form the government.

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**25. Why cannot modern democracies exist without the political parties? Explain any four reasons.**

**Ans. 1.** The every candidate in the elections **will be independent**. So no one will be able to make any **promise to the people** about any major policy changes.

2. The government will be formed but its **utility will remain ever uncertain**.

3. Elected representatives will be **responsible only to their constituency** and not for the entire country.

4. But **no one will be responsible** for how the country run.

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**26. Name the national political party which gets inspiration from India's ancient culture and values. Mention four features of that party.**

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**Ans. Bharatiya Janta Party** gets inspiration from India's ancient culture and values. Following are the features:

1. **Cultural Nationalism** or **Hindutva** is an important element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.
2. The party wants **full territorial and political integration** of Jammu and Kashmir.
3. A **common Civil Code** for all people living in the country irrespective of religion and **ban on religious conversions**.

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**27. Explain the reasons for the lack of internal democracy in the political parties of India.**

- Ans.** 1. There is **lack of internal democracy** within political parties. Parties **do not keep membership registers** and do not hold **organizational meetings**.
2. Ordinary members of the party **do not get sufficient information** on what happens inside the party.
3. They **do not have the means or the connections** needed to influence the decisions.
4. As a result the **leaders assume greater power** to make decisions in the name of the party.

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**28. Examine the rise and growth of political parties?**

- Ans.** 1. The representative democracies emerged when there was the **need of some agency** to gather different views and present to the government. This happened when societies **become large and complex**. This led to the political parties to emerge.
2. In the contemporary world to have a **responsible government**, the countries needed various representatives **to support and restrain the government, make policies, justify or oppose** them. The growth of political parties fulfils these needs.

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**29. Which is the recently formed national party? Examine its objectives and present status.**

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**Ans.** Nationalist Congress Party is the recently formed national party after the split in congress in 1999.

**1. Objectives of NCP:** This party advocates **democracy, Gandhian secularism, equality, justice and federalism**. Wants that **high offices** in government be confined to **natural born citizens** of the country.

**2. Present Status:** A **major party in Maharashtra** and has a significant presence in **Meghalaya, Manipur and Assam**. A coalition partner in the state of Maharashtra in alliance with the Congress since 2004, a **member of the United Progressive Alliance**.

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**30. 'Increase in the number of states and regional parties strengthen the democracy in India'. Comment.**

**Ans.** As India is a **federal state**, so more regional parties mean more influence of state parties in national politics. Earlier, up to 1989 there was a very much influence of congress party in the **political sphere of our country**. During that time the political party who was ruling in the centre, sometimes used its **emergency power** to abolish the state government, in order to establish its own party's government. Now regional parties have a say in the political policies as they win elections in their states. In the present political scenario **no single national party has been able to form government**. Indian National Congress has its own Alliance that is **United Progressive Alliance** and the BJP has its own Alliance that is **National Democratic Alliance**. This has broadened the concept of **popular participation and strengthened the federation** and democracy in our country.

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**31. The political scene is the mass of many parties. How do politicians manage these coalitions? Give your opinion.**

**Ans.** It is true that **presently political scene is dominated by many parties**. If we take it in positive sense we see that this signifies:

1. The concept of **popular participation**.
2. **Equal representation** to all the sections of the society.
3. This system **has strengthened federal system** of democracy.

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#### 4. It is helpful to get equal share in the power.

The politicians do manage these coalitions **by giving proportional representation** to all the emerging political parties and their members.

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#### 32. How far is it correct to say that opposition plays a very important role in a democracy? Elaborate your answer with suitable arguments.

**Ans.** An effective responsible and responsive opposition is the **hallmark of a democracy**. Opposition plays a very important role in a democracy.

1. It acts like a **restraining force** as it represents legitimate dissent. The opposition criticizes and **exposes the mistakes, shortcoming, failures, and lapses of the ruling party** and thus acts like a necessary corrective to it.
  2. The opposition helps to **ventilate the grievances of the people** and help the government to know their views. In this way they **help in the formulation of policy**.
  3. The opposition has **often checked and financial malpractices** on part of the government and **exposed the government's various scams**.
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#### 33. Explain some instances that reflecting the efforts of Indian Government to reform the political parties and leaders.

- Ans.**
1. The constitution was amended to prevent MPs and MLAs from changing parties and leaders. For this **Anti Defection law** was made.
  2. The Supreme Court made it mandatory for every candidate to file an **affidavit** giving **details of his property and criminal cases** pending against him.
  3. The Election Commission made it necessary for political parties to **hold elections** and file their **Income tax returns**.
  4. The **RTI has** made a lot of information available to the public.

## 5 marks Questions

### 1. Explain elements of four basic elements of Political Party.

**Ans.** 1. National and Regional Interest: Political parties have national and regional interests. Their main aim is to promote national interests.

2. Constitutional Interest: A political party must follow the constitutional means in a peaceful manner in order to capture political power.

3. Organisation: The member of political party with concern interest forms a organization that is political party.

4. Common Aim: Its members must have a similar and unanimous opinion regarding public matters and issues

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### 2. “Increase in the number of states or regional parties strengthen democracy in India”. Justify the state with suitable examples.

**Ans.** India is federal country and the powers of the Government are divided into different levels. Decentralization of power means expansion of democracy. If the number of state or regional parties is increasing it means the people of our country are becoming more aware and they are not happy with the working of existing political parties. In these days regional parties have a say in political policies as they win elections in their states. The national political parties have to take help of the regional parties to win the elections or to form the government. The rise of coalition governments broadened the concept of popular participation. It also strengthen the federal system of the democracy.

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### 3. State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.

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**Ans.** 1. Political parties contest elections. In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by the parties. Parties select their candidates in different ways.

2. Parties' forward different policies and programs and voters choose them from. Each of us may have different opinions and views on what policies are suitable for society. A government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the Ruling Party.

3. Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Laws are debated and passed in the legislature. But most of the members of legislature are the members of political parties.

4. Parties form and run the Governments. As we noted last year, the big policy decisions are taken by political executive that comes from the political parties.

5. Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of opposition of the parties in power, by voicing different views and criticizing government for its failure or wrong policies.

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**4. The political scene is the mass of many parties. How do politicians manage these coalitions? Give your opinion.**

**Ans.** It is true that presently political scene is dominated by many political parties. Many National and Regional Political parties are working at local level and regional level. If we take this concept in positive sense we will find out the following conclusions

1. Many political parties give chance of popular participation
  2. Many political parties give choice to the people
  3. Give a chance for equal representation to everyone
  4. His system has strengthened the federal system and democracy of the country.
  5. The politicians do manage these coalitions by giving proportional representation to all emerging political parties and their members
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**5. Suppose, you are going to form a political party. What ideology would you like to keep in mind? Explain.**

**Ans. 1. Aim and objective:** Secularism, patriotism, no place for casteism, welfare of women.

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Promotion of weaker sections and minorities and above all economic development would be the basis of our country.

**2. Internal Democracy:** We would promote internal democracy. There would be routine organizational elections for various party posts.

**3. No favoritism:** In many political parties the most important posts is held by the member of a particular family and it takes inheritable nature. This neglects the rights of other deserving leaders and damage democratic values. Our party would choose the leaders for top post through internal elections.

**4. No role of money and Muscle power:** There would be a place for money and muscle power to win elections.

**5. People's participation:** We would include those policies in our manifesto that would encourage people's participation in the political system.

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**6. How would you explain the situation without political parties in country?**

**Ans. 1.** We can understand the necessity of political parties by **imagining a situation** without parties.

2. The every candidate in the elections **will be independent**. So no one will be able to make any **promise to the people** about any major policy changes.

3. The government will be formed but its **utility will remain ever uncertain**.

4. Elected representatives will be **responsible only to their constituency** and not for the entire country.

5. But **no one will be responsible** for how the country run.

6. Elections without political parties will also be **responsible for the disintegration** of the country.

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**7. What is Multi-Party system? Discuss the merits and demerits of multi-party system.**

**Ans. Multi-Party system:** If several parties compete for power and more than two parties

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have a reasonable chance of coming into power, either own strength or in alliance with other, we call it multi-party system.

**Merits:**

1. This system allows a variety of **interests and opinions**.
2. People can take a **choice between several** candidates.

**Demerits:**

1. No one party is **likely to gain power** alone. Therefore, it is difficult in formation of government.
2. It leads to **political instability**.

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**8. Explain the meaning of a Political Party. Mention its components. Name any two recognized national parties in India.**

**Ans.** A **political party** is a group of people that come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. They agree on some **policies and programs** 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 as to why their policies are better than others. They seek to implement these policies by winning popular through elections.

**Components of Political Party:**

1. The leaders.
2. The active members.
3. The followers.

**Two recognized national parties:**

1. Bhatatiya Janta party
2. Indian National Congress

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**9. Examine the concept ‘use of money and muscle power’ in the Political Parties.**

**Ans.** 1. The role of **money and muscle power in parties**, especially during elections.  
2. Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to **use short-cuts to win elections**.

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3. They tend to nominate those candidates who are or can **raise lots of money**.
  4. Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties **tend to have influence** on the **policies and decisions** of the party.
  5. In some cases parties **support criminals** who can win elections.
  6. Democracies all over the world are worried about the **increasing role of rich people** and big companies in democratic politics.
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**10. Examine the concept 'Dynastic succession' in the Political Parties.**

- Ans.** 1. Most political parties do not practice open and **transparent procedure** for their functioning; there are very few ways for **an ordinary worker to rise to the top** in a party.
2. 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**.
3. In many parties the **top positions are always controlled by members** of one family. This is unfair to other members of that party.
4. This is **also bad for democracy**, since people who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power.
5. This tendency is **present in some measure all over** the world, including in some of the **older democracies**.
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## **MCQ**

**Q.1: - Which of the following is the most visible institutions in a democracy?**

**(a) Leaders (b) Political parties (c) Govt. (d) People**

**Ans.(b) Political parties**

**Q.2: - How many political parties are registered with the election commission of India?**

**(a) Less than 100 (b) Between 100 to 500**

**(c) Between 500 to 750 (d) More than 750**

**Ans.(d) More than 750**

**Q.3: - A Political party has to satisfy the following criteria to be recognized as a national party—**

**(a) 6% votes of total votes in Lok sabha or assembly elections of four status**

**(b) At least 6 Lok sabha seats**

**(c) 12% votes of total votes in Lok sabha**

**(d) At least 12 Lok sabha seats**

**Ans.(a) 6% votes of total votes in Lok sabha or assembly elections of four status**

**Q.4: - How many political parties were recognized as National parties in India in 2006?**

**(a) 06 (b) 16 (c) 750 (d) 21**

**Ans.(a) 06**

**Q.5: - How many Lok sabha constituencies are there in India at present?**

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**(a) 540 (b) 543 (c) 547 (d) 563**

**Ans.(a) 540**

**Q.6: - Area wise which is the largest Lok sabha constituency in India?**

**(a) Karol Bag (b) Ghaziabad (c) Mumbai Cart (d) Ladakh**

**Ans.(d) Ladakh**

**Q.7:- The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) came to power in 1998 as the leader of**

**(a) United progressive Alliance (b) Left front**

**(c) National Democratic (d) None of these**

**Ans.(c) National Democratic**

**Q.8: - Which party system does India follow—**

**(a) Single party system (b) Two party system**

**(c) Multi party system (d) All of them**

**Ans.(c) Multi party system**

**Q.9: - What is Bye –election?**

**(a) Elections held to fill a vacancy caused by the death or any other house.**

**(b) Election held after a specific period.**

**(c) Election held to farm the new govt.**

**(d) Election held in between the fixed term of the house.**

**Ans.(a) Elections held to fill a vacancy caused by the death or any other house.**

**Q.10: -Who is the founder of the Bahunjan Samajwadi Party (BSP)**

**(a) Jyotiba Phule (b) Kanshi Ram**

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**(c) B. R. Ambudkar (d) Maya Vati**

**Ans.(b)** Kanshi Ram

**Short Answers Type Questions**

**Q.1: -Why do we need political parties?**

**Ans.:-**1. Political parties are easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy.

2. For most ordinary citizens, political parties are equal to democracy.<sup>74</sup>

3. Political parties helped in making public opinion and forming the govt.

**Q.2: - Describe the merits of a multi party system in three points.**

**Ans.:-**1. More than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in

alliance with others

2. This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

3. In India we have multi party system and the coalition govt. for last 15 years which benefits all sections

of the population.

**Q.3: - What are the characteristics of a political party?**

**Ans.:-** 1. It is a group of people coming together to contest elections and share power.

2. It agrees on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote collective good.

3. It tends to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.

4. It is known by which party it stands for, which policies it supports and whose interest it upholds.

**Q.4: -What is the role of opposition party in democracy**

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**Ans.:-** 1. Constructive criticism of govt.

2. Restriction of arbitrariness of ruling party

3. Safeguard, liberty and rights of the people

4. Well prepared to form govt.

5. Expression of public opinion

**Q.5: - Give an account of the functions (any four) of political parties**

**Ans.:-** 1. They educate the masses, through their meetings and propaganda about various problems facing the country

2. Helps in the formation of public opinion

3. They contest elections and try to get the maximum number of their candidates elected

4. They serve as a link between the govt. and the people

5. The party which gets as absolute majority, forms the govt. others form opposition

**Q.6: - “The rise of political parties is linked to the emergence of representative democracies.” Comment on the statement.**

**Ans.:-** 1. As a society become large and complex they also need some agencies together with different views on various issues and to present these to the govt.

2. They need some ways to bring various representatives together so that a responsible govt. can be formed.

3. They need a mechanism to support and restrain the govt. make policies, justify or oppose them.

**Long Answers Type Questions**

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**Q.1: - What are the main functions of a political party?**

- Ans.:-**
1. To contest election
  2. Forming policies and programmes
  3. Making laws
  4. Parties form and run govt.
  5. To play an active role of opposition
  6. Shaping public opinion
  7. Access to govt. machinery and welfare schemes

**Q.2: - What are the challenges between political parties in India?**

**Ans.:-** Following points can be given with explanation as the challenges of political parties in India—

1. Lack of internal democracy
2. Lack of transparency
3. Use of money and muscle power
4. Not providing meaningful choice to the voter

**Q.3: - Mention the features of Congress party in India?**

- Ans.:-**
1. Congress party was founded in 1885 and has experienced many splits.
  2. It was ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then in 1980-89, 2000 to till date
  3. This party supports secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities.
  4. It supports new economic reforms but with a human face.
  5. It emerged as the largest party with 145 seats in the Lok Sabha elections in 2004.
  6. It currently leads the ruling united progressive alliance (UPA) coalition govt. at the centre.
  6. Extra constitutional organization.