

Political Parties

(A) OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1 Mark Each



Stand Alone MCQs

(1 Mark Each)

1. What is meant by 'Political Party'?

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- (A) A group of politically sound people.
- (B) A group of people comes together to contest elections to hold power in the government.
- (C) A group of people who want to be in power.
- (D) A group of people who want to amend the Constitution.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Explanation: A political party is an organization that coordinates candidates to compete in a specific country's elections.

2. Name the alliance formed by the Congress Party. R

- (A) National Democratic Alliance (NDA)
- (B) All India Congress (AIC)
- (C) All India Congress Committee (AICC)
- (D) United Progressive Alliance (UPA)

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: United Progressive Alliance is a coalition of predominantly centre-left political parties in India formed after the 2004 general election. The largest member party of the UPA is the Indian National Congress, whose President Sonia Gandhi is the Chairperson of the UPA.

3. **Bharatiya Janata Party believes in the Philosophy of:** R

- (A) Cultural nationalism.
- (B) Religion above all.
- (C) No discrimination on the basis of caste.
- (D) Equal opportunity for all.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: The essence of cultural nationalism is that it unites people of different races in a single and recognized culturally nationalistic society. It holds importance in a society filled with multiple racial sections.

4. **The Bahujan Samaj Party stands for what cause?** R

- (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.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was formed to represent Bahujans, referring to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBC), along with religious minorities.

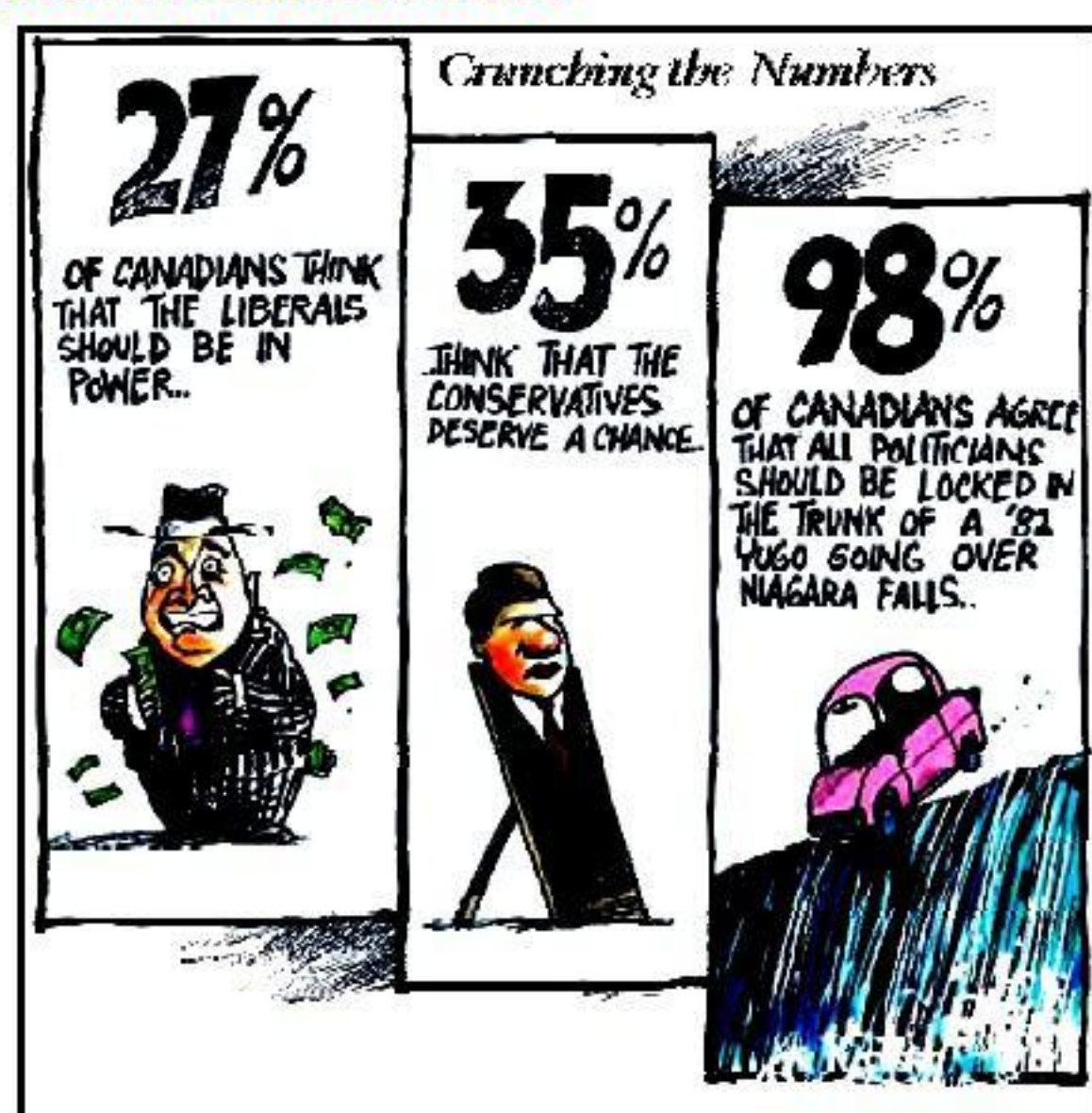
5. **If all the decisions of a political party are made by a single family and all other members are neglected, then what challenge is being faced by that party?** U

- (A) Challenge of alliance formation.
- (B) Challenge of dynastic succession.
- (C) Challenge of partial elections.
- (D) Challenge of power.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Explanation: Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before a political party because in this the leader of the party chooses his family member as the next political leader and by this only the family leaders can come into power and the rest of the people who work in the party never come in front.

6. **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.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: It is often said that political parties are facing a crisis because they are very unpopular and the citizens are indifferent to political parties. Most political leaders are corrupt. Most of the politicians are involved in scams that tend to make the people feel that politics does not have good leaders.

7. **Study the following picture and answer the question that follows:**



Which of the following leaders is shown in this cartoon?

- (A) Berlusconi
- (B) Putin
- (C) Kwame Nkrumah
- (D) Mussolini

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

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

- (A) Kanshi Ram
- (B) B. R. Ambedkar
- (C) Shahu Maharaj
- (D) Jyotiba Phule

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

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

- (A) Bahujan Samaj
- (B) Revolutionary democracy
- (C) Integral humanism
- (D) Modernity

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: Integral humanism was a set of concepts drafted by Deendayal Upadhyaya as a political program and adopted in 1965 as the official doctrine of the BJP.

10.	Column A	Column B
(i)	Congress Party	(a) National Democratic Alliance
(ii)	Bharatiya Janata Party	(b) State Party

(iii)	Communist Party of India – Marxist	(c)	United Progressive Alliance
(iv)	Telugu Desam Party	(d)	Left Front

- (A) (i)-(d), (ii)-(c), (iii)-(b), (iv)-(a)
 (B) (i)-(c), (ii)-(a), (iii)-(d), (iv)-(b)
 (C) (i)-(a), (ii)-(b), (iii)-(c), (iv)-(d)
 (D) (i)-(d), (ii)-(c), (iii)-(b), (iv)-(a)

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Explanation:

- (i) United Progressive Alliance (UPA) is a coalition of predominantly centre-left political parties. The largest member party of the UPA is the Indian National Congress.
- (ii) National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is an alliance made up of predominantly right-wing political parties and led by the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- (iii) Communist Party of India (Marxist) is the dominant party in the coalition of Left Front an alliance of political parties in West Bengal.
- (iv) Telegu Desam Party is a regional Indian political party active in the southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

11.	Column A	Column B
(i)	All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	(a) 1925
(ii)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	(b) 1999
(iii)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	(c) 1980
(iv)	Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	(d) 1998

- (A) (i)-(d), (ii)-(c), (iii)-(a), (iv)-(b)
 (B) (i)-(b), (ii)-(c), (iii)-(a), (iv)-(d)
 (C) (i)-(a), (ii)-(b), (iii)-(d), (iv)-(c)
 (D) (i)-(c), (ii)-(d), (iii)-(b), (iv)-(a)

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation:

- (i) All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) was founded in 1998.
- (ii) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was founded in 1980.
- (iii) Communist Party of India (CPI) was founded in 1925.
- (iv) Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was founded in 1999.

12. Analyze the information given below, considering one of the following correct options:

One of the oldest parties in the world. Founded in 1885 and has experienced many splits. 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)

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

13. Analyze the information given below, considering one of the following correct options:

Formed in 1984 under the leadership of Kanshi Ram. Seeks to represent and secure power for the bahujan samaj which includes the dalits, adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities. Draws inspiration from the ideas and teachings of Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker and Babasaheb Ambedkar. Stands for the cause of securing the interests and welfare of the dalits and oppressed people.

- (A) Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)
 (B) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
 (C) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
 (D) Indian National Congress (INC)

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

14. Analyze the information given below, considering one of the following correct options:

Founded in 1980 by reviving the erstwhile Bharatiya Jana Sangh, formed by Syama Prasad Mukherjee in 1951. Wants to build a strong and modern India by drawing inspiration from India's ancient culture and values; and Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideas of integral humanism and Antyodaya. Cultural nationalism (or 'Hindutva') is an important element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.

- (A) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
 (B) All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)
 (C) Indian National Congress (INC)
 (D) Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

15. Find the incorrect options:

- (A) Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission.
 (B) While the Commission treats all parties equally.
 (C) It offers some special facilities to large and established parties.
 (D) These parties are given an ordinary symbol—only the official candidates of that party can use that election symbol.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: The parties that get these privileges of using unique-symbols and some other special facilities are recognised by the Election Commission of India for this purpose. And only the official Candidates of that Party can use that Election Symbol.

16. Find the incorrect options:

- (A) In a democracy, a large number of similar opinions have to be grouped to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the governments.
- (B) That is what the parties do.
- (C) A party reduces a vast multitude of opinions into a few basic positions which it supports.
- (D) A government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the opposition party.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: Each political party fights the election to achieve its objectives incorporated in their political manifesto. Soon after the election the majority party forming the government seeks to formulate its policies of administration based on promises made in the election manifesto. These policies are made keeping in mind the interest of the general public by the Ruling Party.



Assertion and Reason Based MCQs
(1 Mark Each)

Directions : In the following questions, A statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Mark the correct choice as:

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true but R is false.
- (D) A is false and R is true.

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

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

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Explanation: Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally, laws are debated in the form of first, second and third readings and then by popular voting, the bill is passed.

2. **Assertion (A):** India has multi party system.

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

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Explanation: The multi-party system often appears very messy and leads to political instability. All the parties present different objectives and so create confusion among the people. The government formed is through coalition, which in itself is unstable and may be the cause of the breaking up of the government formed.

3. **Assertion (A):** Political parties are easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy.

Reason (R): For most ordinary citizens, democracy is equal to political parties.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

4. **Assertion (A):** Most people tend to be very critical of political parties.

Reason (R): They tend to blame parties for all that is wrong without democracy and our political life.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

5. **Assertion (A):** Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them.

Reason (R): Each of us has similar opinions and views on what policies are suitable for society.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: Each of us may have different opinions and views on what policies are suitable for society. But no government can handle such a large variety of views.

6. **Assertion (A):** Council Members form and run governments.

Reason (R): Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: Political parties elect their leaders. The political party winning majority of the seats in the elections are invited to form the government.

7. **Assertion (A):** The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies.

Reason (R): As societies became large and organised, they do not need any agency to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: The rise of parties is directly linked with a representative form of democracy because based on large territory and large population it is not possible for people to assemble together and make policies for themselves, therefore representatives from parties are to be chosen. When these parties are put in place, they therefore act as the voices of the masses.



Case-based MCQs

(1 Mark Each)

I. Read the given extract 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.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate options:

1. What does the Election Commission of India allot to all Parties so that they are called 'Recognised Political Parties'?

(A) Emblem (B) Motif
(C) Symbol (D) Flag

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: The Election Commission provides symbols to provide for specification, reservation, choice and allotment of symbols at elections for the recognition of political parties in relation thereto and for matters connected therewith.

2. A party is called 'National Party' only when it polls _____ of total valid votes in at least _____ states and in addition it wins _____ Lok Sabha Seats.

(A) 2%, Four, 4 (B) 6%, Four, 4
(C) 4%, Four, 4 (D) 2%, Four, 3

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Explanation: 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 recognized Party.

3. Every party in the country has to register with:

(A) Prime Minister (B) President
(C) Election Commission (D) All of these

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. Two regional parties of West Bengal are:

(A) Forward Bloc and Trinamool Congress
(B) All India Trinamool Congress and Forward Bloc
(C) National Congress Party and Forward Bloc
(D) Indian National Congress and Forward Bloc

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

- II. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:

Let us look at some of the recent efforts and suggestions in our country to reform political parties and their leaders:

- The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in DEFECTION in order to become ministers or for cash rewards. Now the law says that if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature. This new law has helped bring defection down. At the same time this has made any dissent even more difficult. MPs and MLAs have to accept whatever the party leaders decide.
- The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an AFFIDAVIT giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. But there is no system of checking whether the information given by the candidates is true. As yet, we do not know if it has led to decline in the influence of the rich and the criminals.

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

Besides these, many suggestions are often made to reform political parties:

- A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties. It should be made compulsory for political parties to maintain a register of its members, to follow its own constitution, to have an independent authority, to act as a judge in case of party disputes, to hold open elections to the highest posts.
- It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates. Similarly, there should be a quota for women in the decision-making bodies of the party.
- There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money to support their election expenses. This support could be given in kind: petrol, paper, telephone, etc. Or it could be given in cash on the basis of the votes secured by the party in the last election.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate options:

1. Changing Party allegiance from the Party on which a person got elected (to a legislative body) to a different Party was done normally by:

(A) Only MPs
(B) By both MPs and MLAs
(C) Only MLAs
(D) By none of them

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

2. The Supreme Court has passed an order to file _____ giving details of the property and criminal cases pending against every candidate who contests elections.

(A) writ (B) case
(C) an affidavit (D) charge

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: An affidavit is a declaration of facts made in writing and sworn before a person having the authority to administer the oath. All affidavits need to be drawn up in the first person and should contain facts and not inferences by every candidate who contests election.

3. It should be made mandatory for Political Parties to give a minimum of about one-third of tickets to:

(A) Women (B) SCs
(C) STs (D) All of them

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

4. The Government should give parties state funding of elections as:

(A) Diesel, Petrol, Kerosene oil, etc.
(B) Paper, Stationery, Printed forms, etc.
(C) Mobile Phones, Telephones, Computer, etc.
(D) Petrol, Paper, Telephone, etc.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: This should be done to stop the misappropriate use of money given to the parties.

III. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:

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. The United States of America and the United Kingdom are examples of two-party system. If several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others, we call it a multi party system. Thus, in India, we have a multi party system. In this system, the government is formed

by various parties coming together in a coalition. When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an alliance or a front. For example, in India there were three such major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections—the National Democratic Alliance, the United Progressive Alliance and the Left Front. The multi-party system often appears very messy and leads to political instability. At the same time, this system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate options:

1. Countries having Bi-party system:

(A) USA (B) India
(C) China (D) All of these

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: The Bi-party system encourages the existence of two major parties, as smaller parties face great difficulty in winning elective office.

2. The multi-party system:

(A) appears very messy.
(B) leads to political instability.
(C) not free to form a political party.
(D) Both (A) and (B)

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

3. The Government is formed by various parties coming together in a/an _____.

(A) alliance (B) front
(C) coalition (D) opposition

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: The usual reason for an arrangement of the coalition is that no single party has achieved an absolute majority after an election.

4. Which party leads the ruling NDA government at the Centre?

(A) Indian National Congress
(B) Bharatiya Janata Party
(C) Bahujan Samaj Party
(D) Communist Party of India

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

(B) SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 Mark Each)

1. What is an important function of a political party in India? A  [O.E.B.]

Ans. To contest elections.

2. Why is one party political system not considered a good democratic system? A  [O.E.B.]

Ans. Because one party system has no democratic option.

3. Examine the reason to accept multi-party system in India. U  [O.E.B.]

Ans. Because it is easy to absorb different social and geographical diversities in multi-party system.

4. Name a country that has one party system.

A [O.E.B.]

Ans. China.

AI 5. Name any two regional parties of West Bengal. A [O.E.B.]

Ans. (i) Forward Bloc (ii) Trinamool Congress

6. When was the Communist Party of India – Marxist (CPI-M) formed? R [O.E.B.]

Ans. CPI-M was formed in 1964.

7. Why do political parties involve partisanship?

A [O.E.B.]

Ans. Because parties are about a part of the society and thus they involve partisanship.



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 Marks Each)

1. Describe the necessity of political parties in a democratic country? E [OD Set-I, 2020]

Ans. Political parties are necessary for democratic countries because:

- Without political parties, democracies cannot exist.
- If we do not have political parties, in such a situation every candidate in elections will be independent.
- No one will be able to make any promises to the people about any major policy changes.
- The government may be formed, but its utility will remain uncertain.
- Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency for what they do in their locality. But no one will be responsible for how the country will run.
- The role of an opposition party in a democracy necessitates the existence of political parties.
- As societies become large and complex, they also need some agencies to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government, that's why, political parties are needed.

(Any three)

AI 2. Describe the role of political parties in India.

U [CBSE SQP, 2020]

Ans. Role of Political Parties:

- Parties contest elections.
- Parties put forward different policies and programmes.
- Parties form and run the government.
- Parties that lose in the election play the role of opposition.
- Parties shape public opinion.
- Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes.

(Any other relevant point) [$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$]

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019]

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ⇒ Instead of role students have discussed about functions of the Political party.

ANSWERING TIP

- ⇒ In this answer the role or the characteristics of any political party should be discussed.

AI 3. Explain the three components of 'Political Party'.

U [Delhi Set-II, 2019]

OR

Analyse the three components of a Political party.

U [Board Term-II, OD Set-III, 2016]

OR

Describe the three components of a Political party. U

Ans. Three components of Political party:

- The leaders.
- The active members.
- The followers.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 3

Detailed Answer:

The three components of the political parties are:

- Leaders:** The leaders are those who take major decisions of the party and their decisions are the supreme command for the party.
- Active Members:** Another component of political party is the active members who contest elections for the party and are elected as representatives.
- Followers:** The last one is the followers who support a political party and in elections make their party victorious.

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ⇒ Students are confused between the role of active members and followers of the party.

ANSWERING TIP

- ⇒ The three components and their role in the party should be discussed briefly.

AI 4. Explain any three functions of Opposition Political Parties. U [Delhi Set-III, 2019]

Ans. Functions of Opposition Political Parties are:

- Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of opposition to the parties in power.
- Criticizing the government for its failures or wrong policies.

3. Opposition parties mobilize opposition to the government.
4. Shape public opinion.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019]

Detailed Answer:

Three functions of Opposition Political Parties are:

- (i) The main function of an Opposition Party is to force the ruling party or the party in power to function properly and fulfill their promises made during the electoral campaign.
- (ii) They are very important for any bill to pass or any law to implement in the House of the Legislature.
- (iii) Because in a democracy such as India, a complete majority is not possible therefore, opposition parties also hold power in certain areas and are equally important.

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ➔ Instead of the functions of the Opposition Party, few students have mentioned the functions of the Ruling Party.

ANSWERING TIP

- ➔ Mention the functions of only Opposition Party, not the functions of Political Party.

5. Describe any three main features of Two-party system. [A] [Board Term-II, 2015]

Ans. Main features of the Two-party system:

- (i) Power usually changes between two parties, several other parties may exist.
- (ii) In such a system, people get a clear choice.
- (iii) The party that wins the majority forms the government and the other sits in Opposition.
- (iv) Strong opposition is good for democracy.
- (v) Prompt decisions are taken and implemented.
- (vi) More development and less corruption.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

[AI] 6. What is a Multi-party system? Why has India adopted a Multi-party system? Explain.

[U] [Board Term-II, 2015]

Ans. Multi-party system:

If several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their strength or in alliance with others, we call it a Multi-party system.

India adopted a Multi-party system because:

- (i) There is social and geographical diversity in India.
- (ii) India is such a large country, which is not easily absorbed by two or three parties.
- (iii) The system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

(Any two) $1 + 2 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ➔ The purpose of formation of Multi-party system is overlooked and not mentioned in the answer.

ANSWERING TIP

- ➔ The aspect of diversity should be discussed.

[AI] 7. What do you understand by the Bi-party system? Write its one merit and one demerit. [E] + [U]

Ans. Bi-party system:

In some countries, power usually changes between the two main parties. It is also known as the two party system. In this system, the government is formed by one party and the other plays the role of opposition.

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

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

$1 + 1 + 1 = 3$

[AI] 8. How are Political Parties recognized as Regional and National Parties in India? Explain with examples. [U] [Delhi Set-I, 2019]

Ans. Regional and National Parties:

The Election Commission gives regulation to the parties as a regional and national parties on the following basis:

(i) **Regional Party:**

(a) A party to secure at least six per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state and win at least two seats.

(b) **Example:** Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena, DMK, etc.

(ii) **National Party:**

(a) A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha election or Assembly in four states and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha.

(b) **For example:** BJP, Indian National Congress, etc.

$1\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{2} = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019]

Detailed Answer:

In India, Political Parties are recognized as Regional and National parties in the following ways:

- (i) A Regional Party refers to the party that obtains a minimum of 6% of the total votes in State Assembly elections and acquires a minimum of two seats. On the contrary, if a party occupies 6% of the total votes polled in the elections of the lower house of Parliament or Legislative Assembly elections in four states and gains four seats in the lower house then that party is granted the status of the National Party.
 - (ii) A Regional Party's symbol can be changed and repeated in another state. Conversely, the symbol of a National Party is permanent which cannot be repeated.
 - (iii) A Regional Party influences a particular region or state. In contrast, a National Party influences over the entire country.
 - (iv) A Regional Party must win seats of at least two states. While, a national party must win seats in at least four States.
 - (v) A Regional Party aims at promoting regional interest. On the other end, a national Party aims at resolving National and International Issues.
- Examples of national parties:** BJP, CPI (M), INC, BSP, etc.
Examples of regional parties: AAP, Shiv Sena, All India Forward Bloc, etc.

(Any three points along with examples)

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ➔ Few students have not mentioned the 2nd part of the question i.e. examples of each party.

ANSWERING TIP

- ➔ Percentage of votes, seats (data) should be remembered properly before writing this answer.

9. "Nearly every one of the State Parties wants to get an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition." Support the statement with arguments.

[A] [Board Term-II, Delhi Set-III, 2016]

Ans. State Parties seeking National Level Coalition:

Before the general elections of 2014, in three General Elections, no one National Party was able to secure on its own a majority in Lok Sabha. As a result, the national parties were compelled to form alliances with state or regional parties. Since 1996, nearly every one of the state parties has got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other National Level Coalition Government.

This has contributed to the strengthening of Federalism and Democracy.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 3

10. What is meant by 'Regional Political Party'? State the conditions required to be recognized as a 'Regional Political Party'.

[U] [Board Term-II, Delhi Set-I, II, III, 2016]

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

Conditions required for a party to be recognized as a Regional Political Party are:

- (i) A Party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State.
 - (ii) Wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly.
- [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 1 + 2 = 3

11. Describe about the ideology and organization of Bahujan Samaj Party.

[A] [Board Term-II 2016]

Ans. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was formed in 1984 under the leadership of Kanshi Ram. Its main aim is that it seeks to represent and secure power for the Bahujan Samaj which includes the Dalits and Adivasis, OBCs and Religious Minorities.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 3

[AI] 12. What is a Political Party? State any two points of the ideology of Bharatiya Janta Party?

[U] [Board Term-II 2016]

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

The Ideology of BJP:

- (i) Wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.
 - (ii) A uniform civil code for all people living in the Country irrespective of Religion.
 - (iii) Cultural Nationalism. (Any two) 1 + 2 = 3
- [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

13. What is meant by a 'National Political Party'? State the conditions required to be a National Political Party.

[U] [Board Term-II, Delhi I, II, III, 2016]

Ans. National Political Parties have units in the various States, they follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the National level.

Conditions required:

- (i) A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in general elections of Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four states.
- (ii) Wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 1 + 2 = 3

14. Name the 'Regional Political Parties' that are predominant in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha respectively with their symbols.

[R] [O.E.B.]

Ans. **Jharkhand—JMM—**Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, its symbol is Bow & Arrow.

Maharashtra—INC—Indian National Congress, its symbol is Hand.

Odisha—BJD—Biju Janata Dal, its symbol is Conch. $1 \times 3 = 3$

15. Name any six 'Regional Political Parties' of the four Southern States of India. [R] [O.E.B.]

Ans. **Tamil Nadu** — AIADMK (All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam), DMK.

Andhra Pradesh — Telugu Desam, Lok Satta

Kerala — Kerala Congress (Joseph)

Puducherry — AINRC (All India N. R. Congress)

$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$

16. State the conditions as laid down by the Election Commission to recognize a 'State Party' and 'National Party'. [U] [O.E.B.]

Ans. The difference between a State and a National Party can be identified as follows:

- (i) In a State Party, the party members aim to highlight 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.

17. Name the National Political Party which espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities. Mention any four features of that party. [R] [O.E.B.]

Ans. The National Political Party which espouses secularism and the welfare of weaker sections and minorities in the Indian National Congress.

Four features of this party are as listed below:

- (i) Founded in 1885.
- (ii) Dominated Indian Politics, both at the national and State levels, for several decades after India's Independence.
- (iii) Ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then from 1980 to 1989. After 1989, its support declined.
- (iv) A centrist party (neither rightist nor leftist) in its ideological orientation. $1 + \frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 3$

18. Exhibit the role of money and muscle power among Political Parties during Elections. [A] [CBSE SQP, 2018-19]

OR

How do money and muscle power play an important role in Elections? Explain. [U] [Board Term-II, OD Set-II, 2015]

Ans. **Role of money and muscle power among Political Parties during Elections:**

- (i) Since Parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use shortcuts to win Elections.

(ii) They tend to nominate those Candidates who have or can raise lots of money.

(iii) Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to influence on the Policies and Decisions of the Party.

(iv) In some cases, Parties support criminals who can win elections.

(v) Democrats all over the world are worried about the increasing role of rich people and big companies in Democratic Politics.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018]

19. Which three challenges do you feel are being faced by Political Parties in India? Give your opinion. [A] [Board Term-II, OD Set-I, 2016]

OR

What are the various challenges faced by Political Parties? [A]

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

- (i) Lack of Internal democracy.
- (ii) Challenge of Dynastic succession.
- (iii) Growing role of money and muscle power.
- (iv) Often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

[AI] 20. "Serious efforts were made by the legal organizations to reform political parties in India." Support the statement. [A] [Board Term-II, 2015]

Ans. Efforts made by the legal organizations to reform Political Parties in India are:

- (i) To check defection, the Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLA's and MPS's from changing Parties.
- (ii) The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals, by making it mandatory to produce an affidavit giving details of the property and criminal cases pending against the Candidate.
- (iii) The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their Income tax returns. $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

21. "Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the Political Parties". Analyse the statement. [C] + [A] & [E] [Board Term-II, OD Set-I, 2015]

Ans. Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the Political Parties because:

- (i) Most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning.

- (ii) There are few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top of a Party.
- (iii) In many Parties, the top positions are always controlled by Members of one family.
- (iv) This practice is unfair to other members of that party and is also bad for Democracy.
- (v) People who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy a position of power.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 Marks Each)

AI 1. Describe any five functions of Political Party.

U [Delhi Set-I, 2020]

OR

Explain any five needs to have Political Parties in a Democratic Country.

U [OD Set-III, 2019]

OR

Describe any five major functions of Political Parties performed in a Democracy.

A [Delhi & OD, 2018]

OR

Describe the importance of Political Parties in a Democratic Government.

A [CBSE Compartment, 2018]

OR

Describe any five major functions of Political Parties.

A [Board Term-II, 2015]

OR

"Political Parties play a major role in democracy." Explain any five points to justify this statement. **A**

OR

"Political parties are rightly called the government in disguise." Justify the statement in reference to democratic politics by giving five arguments.

A + **U**

- Ans.** (i) To contest Elections.
 (ii) To form & run the government.
 (iii) To work as an Opposition Party.
 (iv) To shape public opinion.
 (v) To make people aware of government policies, welfare schemes, etc.
 (vi) Any other relevant point to be explained.

(Any five)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] $1 \times 5 = 5$

Detailed Answer:

Introduction: Political parties perform many crucial functions in democracy.

- (a) It contest elections; parties choose candidates to contest elections. The process of choosing candidates varies, e.g., in the USA, party members choose the candidates while in India top party leaders choose.
- (b) It puts forward policies and programmes and people choose them. They pile up similar opinions into a major stances that the parties support usually on the line of ruling the party.

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

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ➔ Instead of the needs to have Political Parties in a Democracy, students have written role of Ruling Parties in their answers.

ANSWERING TIP

- ➔ The important needs to have Political Parties in a Democracy should be discussed here.

AI 2. Explain any five functions of the Ruling Party.

U [OD Set-III, 2019]

Ans. Functions of the Ruling Party:

- (i) To contest elections.
- (ii) Formation of government.
- (iii) Shaping of public opinion.
- (iv) Providing people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by the government.
- (v) Decisive role in making laws.
- (vi) Any other relevant point to be explained.

(Any five)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] $1 \times 5 = 5$

Detailed Answer:

- (i) They contest elections by selecting their Candidates.
 - (ii) They form the government and run the Country.
 - (iii) They shape public opinion. They launch Movements for problems faced by the public.
 - (iv) They provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by the government.
 - (v) They play a decisive role in making laws.
- (Any other relevant point)

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ➔ Few students have also written role of the Opposition Party in their answers, which is not the requirement of the question.

ANSWERING TIP

- ➔ Only functions of the ruling party are required in this question.

AI 3. What is a Political Party? Explain any four characteristics of a Political Party.

U [OD Set-I, 2019]

OR

What are the characteristics of a Political Party?

U

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

Characteristics of a Political Party:

- (i) Contest elections.
- (ii) They have their own programmes, policies and ideology.
- (iii) Political Parties play a decisive role in making laws.
- (iv) Political parties form and run governments.
- (v) Play an important role in opposition.
- (vi) Parties shape public opinion.
- (vii) Any other relevant point to be explained.

(Any four) $1+4=5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019]

Detailed Answer:

"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. Since, there can be different views on what is good for all, parties try to persuade people why their policies are better than the others.

Characteristics of a Political Party:

- (i) Political parties contest elections and share power.
- (ii) They agree on some policies and programmes for the society to promote collective good.
- (iii) If a political party is unable to win a majority, it makes an alliance with other parties to form a Coalition Government.
- (iv) Political parties try to persuade people that their policies are better than others.

The above characteristics also show that political parties are necessary for a Democracy.

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ⇒ The students mention the functions of the Political Party instead of characteristics.

ANSWERING TIP

- ⇒ Characteristics or roles of a Political Party are same.

AI 4. "Political Parties are a necessary condition for a Democracy". Analyse the statement with examples.

E [Board Term-II, OD Set-I, II, III, 2016]

OR

Why can't Modern Democracies exist without Political Parties? Explain any four reasons.

E [Board Term-II, 2015]

Ans. "Political Parties are a necessary condition for a democracy" because:

- (i) Without Political Parties, Democracies cannot exist.
- (ii) If we do not have political parties, in such a situation every candidate in Elections will be independent.
- (iii) No one will be able to make any promises to the people about any major policy changes.
- (iv) The government may be formed but its utility will remain uncertain.
- (v) Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency for what they do in their locality.
- (vi) But no one will be responsible for how the country will run.
- (vii) The role of an opposition party in a democracy necessitates the existence of Political Parties.
- (viii) As societies become large and complex, they also need some agencies to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government, that's why, Political Parties are needed.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

AI 5. What is meant by a Political Party? Describe the three components of a Political Party.

R [Board Term-II, OD, Set-I, II, III 2015]

Ans. Political Party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.

Three components of a political party are:

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

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] $2 + 3 = 5$

AI 6. Explain two functions each of the Ruling Party as well as of the Opposition Parties. **U** [O.E.B.]

Ans. Functions of the Ruling Parties:

- (i) They play a major role in making laws for the country.
- (ii) They form the government and run the country.
- (iii) They recruit leaders, train them and then make ministers run the government.

Functions of the Opposition Parties:

- (i) They oppose the government by voicing different views.
- (ii) They criticise the government for its failure and wrong policies.
- (iii) They mobilise opposition to the government.

$2\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} = 5$

COMMONLY MADE ERROR

- ⇒ The students mention the general functions of a Political Party.

ANSWERING TIP

- ⇒ Specific functions of the Ruling Party and the Opposition Party should be mentioned.

AI 7. What is a Multi-Party system? Explain Merits and Demerits of multi-party system.

U [O.E.B.]

Ans. In the Multi-party system, three or more parties compete to gain control of the government separately or in the coalition. When no single party gain majority votes then several parties join and form a coalition government. For example-India.

Supporters of this system point out that it allows more points of view to be presented in the government.

Merits:

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

Demerits:

- (i) No one party is likely to gain power alone. Therefore, it leads to difficulty in formation of the government.
- (ii) Leads to political instability and often appears to be very messy. $1 + 2 + 2 = 5$

8. Describe the importance of Regional Political parties in strengthening democracy.

U [CBSE Compartment, 2018]

Ans. Importance of Regional Political Parties:-

Over the last three decades, the number and strength of regional parties have expanded. This made the Parliament of India politically more and more diverse. No one national party can secure on its own a majority in Lok Sabha. As a result, the National Parties are compelled to form alliances with state parties 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.

(To be assessed as a whole) 5
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018]

AI 9. What is meant by National Parties? State the criteria for recognizing a party as National and State party. **R**

Ans. 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.

Those parties, which are countrywide, are called National Parties.

National and State Parties:

- (i) 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 recognized as a State Party.

- (ii) 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 recognized as a National Party.

10. Differentiate between National and Regional Parties. **U** [O.E.B.]

Ans. National Parties:

- (i) A Party that secures at least 6% of total votes in 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.
- (ii) National Parties have influence in more than three states.
For example: Congress, BJP, BSP, CPI-M, CPI and NCP.

Regional Parties:

- (i) A Party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State and wins at least two seats is recognised as a State Party or Regional Party.
- (ii) Regional parties have influence in about three states.
For example, DMK, Rashtriya Janata Dal, AIADMK, etc. $2\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} = 5$

AI 11. Illustrate the situations which display lack of Internal Democracy within a Political Party.

[CBSE SQP, 2018-19]

OR

“Lack of Internal Democracy within Parties is the major challenge to political parties all over the World.” Analyse the statement.

A + **U** [Board Term II, CBSE SQP 2016; Board Term-II, 2015]

OR

In what way lack of Internal Democracy is seen in the Political Parties?

Ans. Situations which display a lack of Internal Democracy within a Political Party are:

- (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 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.
- (iv) Since one or a few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who disagree with the leadership find it difficult to continue in the Party.
- (v) More than loyalty to party principles and policies, personal loyalty to the leader becomes more important. $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018]

12. Suggest any five effective measures to reform Political Parties.

U [OD Set II, 2017]

OR

Suggest and explain any five measures to reform Political Parties.

U [Board Term-II, OD Set-II, 2016]

OR

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

Ans. Effective measures to reform Political Parties are:

- (i) A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of Political Parties.
- (ii) It should be made compulsory for political parties to maintain a register of its Members.
- (iii) It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about 1/3rd to its Women candidates.
- (iv) There should be a quota for women in the decision making bodies of the Party.
- (v) There should be state funding of elections.
- (vi) The government should give parties money to support their election expenses in kind of petrol, paper, telephone, etc. or cash.
- (vii) Vote casting should be made compulsory in each election.
- (viii) Data regarding castes and religions, OBCs, SCs, STs should not be utilized during election period in any form.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017]

13. "All over the world, people express their dissatisfaction with the failure of Political Parties to perform their functions well." Analyse the statement with arguments.

A [Board Term-II, Delhi Set-II, 2016]

Ans. Popular dissatisfaction and criticism: It has focused on four areas in the working of Political Parties, need to face and overcome these challenges to remain effective instruments of Democracy.

Failure of political parties:

- (i) Lack of internal democracy within parties.
- (ii) Dynastic succession.
- (iii) Growing role of money and muscle power in parties.
- (iv) There is no meaningful choice to the voters.

$1+4=5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

AI 14. Examine any two institutional amendments made by different institutions to reform Political Parties and their leaders. A [Board Term-II, 2016]

OR

Elucidate some of the recent efforts taken in our country to reform Political Parties and its Leaders.

A [Board Term II, CBSE SQP, 2016]

Ans. (i) The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLA's and MP's from changing parties. This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in defection to become ministers or for cash rewards. Now, if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the Legislature.

(ii) The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests Elections to file an affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. But there is no system of check if the information given by the candidates is true.

(iii) The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their Organisational elections and file their Income tax returns.

(iv) The Parties have started doing so but sometimes it is a mere formality. It is not clear if this step has led to greater internal democracy in Political Parties.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] $1\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 5$

AI 15. Explain any four problem areas in the working of Political Parties. E + U

OR

Explain how political parties are still in the grip of some serious challenges. U

Ans. (i) **Lack of Internal Democracy:** The first challenge is the lack of Internal Democracy within Parties. The concentration of power in one or a few Leaders at the top.

(ii) **Dynastic succession:** Favour people close to them or even their family members. In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by Members of one family.

(iii) **Money and muscle power:** The third challenge is about a growing role of money and muscle power in parties, especially during Elections.

(iv) **Meaningful choice:** The fourth challenge is that very often Parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters. $1 + 4 = 5$

AI 16. Why is there a lack of Internal Democracy within the Political Parties in India? Explain with examples. U

Ans. There are various reasons for lack of Democracy within the Political Parties in India:

(i) Concentration of power in one or a few Leaders at the top.

(ii) Details of Membership are not registered in the Parties.

(iii) No Organisational Meetings.

(iv) No Internal Elections for Membership within the Party.

(v) Top Leaders have unanimous power of decision-making. $1 \times 5 = 5$

□□□