

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. “Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy” . Analyse the statement with examples. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

OR

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

Ans. Political parties are necessary condition for a democracy.

(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 rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies. As we have seen, large societies need representative' s democracy.

(v) The government may be formed but its utility will remain uncertain. They needed same ways to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government could be formed.

(vi) They needed some mechanisms to support or restrain the government, make policies, justify or oppose them.

(vii) Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency for what they do in their locality.

(viii) Political parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally laws are debated and passed in the legislature in which ruling party plays a major role.

(ix) Parties form and run governments. Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want.

(x) Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of opposition to the parties in power, by voicing different views and criticising for its failure or wrong policies.

(xi) Parties shape public opinions. They raise and highlight issues. Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread all over the country. Parties sometimes also launch movements for the resolution of problems faced by people.

(xii) But no one will be responsible for how the country will run.

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

(xiv) As societies become large and complex, they also needed some agencies to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government, that is why political parties are needed.

(xv) Political parties fulfil these needs that every representative government has. We can say that parties are necessary condition for a democracy.

The problem of bad politics can be solved by more and better politics.

Q. 2. What is the role of an ordinary citizen in reforming the political parties?

OR

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

Ans. (i) People can put pressure on political parties. This can be done through petitions, publicity and agitations. Ordinary citizens, pressure groups, movements and the media can play an important role.

(ii) In a democracy, everybody has been given the right to speak, right to express his ideas and right to agitate.

(iii) Political parties can improve if those who are interested, also join the political parties. The quality of democracy depends on the degree of public participation.

(iv) If political parties feel that they would lose public support by not taking up reforms, they would become more serious about reforms.

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

Q. 3. Is it true that meaningful choice is not given to the voters?

Ans. Often parties do not seem to offer meaningful choice to voters.

In order to offer meaningful choice, parties must be significantly different from each other.

In recent years, there has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world.

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

Those who actually want different policies, have no option available to them.

Sometimes, people cannot even elect very different leader either because the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another.

Q. 4. Analyse the role of political parties in shaping public opinion. [CBSE (F) 2017]

Ans. Role of political parties in shaping public opinion

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

Q. 5. Which three challenges do you feel are being faced by political parties in India? Give your opinion. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

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

- (i) Lack of internal democracy.
 - (a) All over the world, there is a tendency of political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.
 - (b) Parties do not keep membership register.
 - (c) They do not conduct internal elections regularly.
 - (d) Ordinary members of the party do not have sufficient information as to what happens inside the party.
- (ii) **No Transparency**
 - (a) Since most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning, these are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party.

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

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

(iii) Money and Muscle Power

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

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

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