

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. What is meant by dynastic succession in politics?

Ans. A rule in which the family's generation rules. Lack of internal democracy and elections leads to dynastic succession in leadership. Nepotism arises as top leaders prefer to have their family members as successors, thereby the members who work at the grassroots are neglected.

Q. 2. Assess the importance of political parties in democracy. [CBSE (F) 2017]

Ans. Importance of Political Parties:

- (i) Parties contest elections to form government.
- (ii) Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them.
- (iii) A party reduces a vast multitude of opinions into a few basic positions which it supports.
- (iv) Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
- (v) Parties recruit leaders, trains them and then make them ministers to run the Government.
- (vi) Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments.

Q. 3. What is a multi-party system? Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain. [CBSE 2015]

Ans. (i) If several parties compete for power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with other, we call it a **multiparty system**.

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

(iii) Party system is not something any country can choose. It evolves over a long time depending on the nature of society, its social and regional divisions, its history of politics and its system of elections.

Q. 4. "Political Parties are a necessary condition for a democracy." Analyse the statement with examples. [CBSE (Comptt) 2017]

Ans. Political parties are necessary condition for a democracy:

If political parties don't exist then –

- (i) Every candidate in the elections will be independent.
- (ii) No one will be able to make any promise to the people about any major policy changes.
- (iii) The government may be formed, but its utility will remain ever uncertain.
- (iv) Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency for what they do in the locality.
- (v) No one will be responsible for how the country will be run.
- (vi) Political parties are important for representative democracies as they bring representatives together to form the government.
- (vii) It consists of people seeking to achieve their objectives through constitutional means and aims at promoting national interest.

Q. 5. What is the difference between a national party and a state party?

Ans. There are three major differences between a national party and regional/state party:

- (i) National parties have influence all over the country or in several states of India. The influence of a state party is limited to a state or region.
- (ii) National parties take interest in national as well as international issues; whereas regional or state parties are interested in promoting regional/state interest only.
- (iii) The national parties have to harmonise the national as well as state interests; whereas state parties usually stand for greater autonomy for states.

Q. 6. What is the role of the opposition party in a democracy? [CBSE (AI) 2017]

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

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

Q. 7. Give one merit and one demerit of a single-party system.

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

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

Q. 8. What are the major differences between the policies of CPI(M) and CPI?

Ans.

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

Q. 9. What are the main components of a political party?

Ans. (i) The leaders: A political party consists of leaders who contest elections and if they win, perform the administrative job.

(ii) The active members: They are the ones who climb a ladder from being the follower and become the assistants of the leaders to gain knowledge about the politics.

(iii) The followers: They are simply the ardent followers of the leaders and work under the able guidance of the active members.

Q. 10. How do parties perform the job of making laws for the country?

Ans. 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.

But since most of the members belong to a party, they follow what their leader says, irrespective of their personal opinions.

Q. 11. How is a government of alliances formed?

Ans. When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an alliance or front.

In India, there were three major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections.

These were the National Democratic Alliance or NDA formed by BJP and its allies. Then the United Progressive Alliance or UPA led by Congress and its allies. The third one was the Left Front, which is formed by Communists or their parties like CPI and CPI(M).

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

Ans. Party system is not something any country can choose:

(i) It evolves over a long time, depending on the nature of its society, its social and regional divisions, its history of politics and its system of elections.

(ii) These cannot be changed very quickly.

(iii) Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances. No system is ideal for all countries and all situations.

Q. 13. “Lack of internal democracy within parties is the major challenge to political parties all over the world.” Analyse the statement. [CBSE 2015]

Or

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

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

Parties do not keep membership register.

They do not regularly hold organisational meetings.

They do not conduct interval elections regularly.

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

As a result, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.

Q. 14. What suggestions are often made to reform political parties?

OR

Suggest any five effective measures to reform political parties. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. 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 act as a judge in case of party disputes and to hold open elections to the highest post.

It should be made mandatory for political parties to give minimum number of tickets, about one-third to the women candidates.

There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money to support their election expenses. This support can be given in a way like; petrol, paper, telephone, etc. Or, it could be given in cash on the basis of votes, secured by the party in the last elections. It should be mandatory to hold their organisational elections.

People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and agitation.

Parties should reduce the influence of money and criminals.

The parties should select candidates for contesting elections who have good record.

**Q. 15. The first challenge faced by political parties is lack of internal democracy within parties. What do you understand by the statement? Explain.
[CBSE Sample Paper 2016]**

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

(ii) Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings, and do not conduct internal elections regularly.

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

(iv) They do not have the means or the connections needed to influence the decisions. As a result, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.

(v) Since one or few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who disagree with the leadership find it difficult to continue in the party.

(vi) More than loyalty to party principles and policies, personal loyalty to the leader becomes more important.

Q. 16. What is meant by a 'national political party'? State the conditions required to be a national political party. [CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. National Political Party 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.

Q. 17. "Nearly every one of the state parties wants to get an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition." Support the statement with

arguments.

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

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

Q. 18. What is meant by regional political party? State the conditions required to be recognised as a 'regional political party'. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

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

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

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

Q. 19. What is a political party? State any two points of the ideology of Bhartiya Janata Party. [CBSE (F) 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 promote the collective good 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.