

CBSE Test Paper - 04
Chapter - 21 Political Parties

1. Which party was formed following a split in the Congress party? **(1)**
 - a. Bhartiya Janta Party
 - b. Indian National Congress
 - c. Communist Party of India - Marxist
 - d. Nationalist Congress Party

2. Which of the following is not the obstructions and challenges faced by political parties? **(1)**
 - a. Lack of internal Democracy
 - b. Meaningful Choices
 - c. Money and Muscle Power
 - d. Full of Transparency

3. Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in 1998 as the leader of the _____ including several state and regional parties. **(1)**
 - a. Communist Party of India - Marxist
 - b. The Left Front
 - c. National Democratic Alliance
 - d. The United Progressive Alliance

4. Which party believes in Marxism-Leninism, secularism and democracy? **(1)**
 - a. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
 - b. Indian National Congress (INC)
 - c. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
 - d. Communist Party of India (CPI)

5. Match the following with respect to Challenges to political parties. **(1)**

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Column A	Column B
1. First Challenge	a. Dynastic succession
2. Second Challenge	b. Money and muscle power
3. Third Challenge	c. Meaningful choice
4. Fourth Challenge	d. Lack of internal democracy

- a. 1 - d, 2 - b, 3 - a, 4 - c
- b. 1 - d, 2 - a, 3 - b, 4 - c
- c. 1 - a, 2 - d, 3 - b, 4 - c
- d. 1 - c, 2 - a, 3 - b, 4 - d

6. How National Congress Party was formed? **(1)**
7. Name the political Party who wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India? **(1)**
8. Which institution has passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational election and file their income tax return? **(1)**
9. What is meant by 'Political Party'? **(1)**
10. Which is the recently formed national party? Examine its objectives and present status. **(3)**
11. Explain any three recent efforts made to reform political parties in India. **(3)**
12. Which three challenges do you feel are being faced by political parties in India? Give your opinion. **(3)**
13. What is the difference between National and Regional party? **(3)**
14. What is a multi-party system? Explain the merits and demerits of a multi-party system. **(5)**
15. Describe the role of Political Parties in Indian democracy. **(5)**

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Answers

1. d. Nationalist Congress Party

Explanation: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP): Formed in 1999 following a split in the Congress party. Espouses democracy, Gandhian secularism, equity, social justice and federalism.

2. d. Full of Transparency

Explanation: There is no full transparency in political party. In fact there is Absence of Transparency. Since most of the parties do not practice transparent procedures for their function, it becomes very difficult for ordinary members to rise to the top in the party.

3. c. National Democratic Alliance

Explanation: Founded in 1980, Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in 1998 as the leader of the National Democratic Alliance including several state and regional parties.

4. d. Communist Party of India (CPI)

Explanation: Communist Party of India (CPI): Formed in 1925. Believes in Marxism-Leninism, secularism and democracy. Opposed to the forces of secessionism and communalism.

5. b. 1 - d, 2 - a, 3 - b, 4 - c

Explanation:

- i. The first challenge is lack of internal democracy within parties.
- ii. The second challenge of dynastic succession is related to the first one.
- iii. The third challenge is about the growing role of money and muscle power in parties, especially during elections.
- iv. The fourth challenge is that very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters

6. National Congress Party was formed on 25th May 1999 after a split in the Congress

Party over a dispute of Italian born Sonia Gandhi leading the party.

7. Bharatiya Janta Party
8. Supreme Court
9. A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government is called political Party.
10. Nationalist Congress Party is the recently formed national party after the split in Congress in 1999.
 - i. **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.
 - ii. **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.
11. The following efforts have been made in the recent days to reform political parties in India.
 - i. The Supreme Court of India has passed an order to lower the adverse influence of money and criminals.
 - ii. The Constitution was amended to prevent the members of the Houses in Parliament and Assembly, i.e. the MLAs and MPs from switching parties (anti-defection law).
 - iii. The Election Commission of India passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections regularly and to file their income tax returns.
12. 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.

13. The differences between National and Regional Party are

National Party	Regional /State Party
National party influences the whole country.	Regional or State party's influence is limited and region-based.
It takes national as well as international issues.	It is interested in promoting regional/state interest only.
The party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in the Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in 4 States and win at least 4 seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized as a national party.	The party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state and win at least 2 seats in the State Assembly is recognized as a state party.
Example: BJP, INC, CPI etc.	Example: Shiv Sena, BJD etc.

14. In the Multi-party system, three or more parties are in the competition to gain control of the government separately or in the coalition. When no single party gains majority votes then several parties join and form a coalition government. 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 make a choice between several candidates.
- iii. In this system, people have an opportunity to make a choice between several candidates.
- iv. The Multi-party system means having more than two parties and they have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others.

Demerits:

- i. No one party is likely to gain power alone. Therefore, it leads to difficulty in the

formation of government.

ii. Leads to political instability and often appears to be very messy.

15. Indian democracy has a multi-party system Political Parties perform a series of functions in our democracy. These are:

i. Parties contest elections. Elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by the political parties. By winning the election, a political party can form the government.

Sometimes more than two parties form a coalition and form the government.

ii. Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them. A large number of similar opinions are grouped together to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the governments. A party reduces a vast multitude of opinions into a few basic positions it supports.

iii. Parties play a decisive role in making laws for our country by making debate and passing a law in the legislature for the country.

iv. Parties form and run government by recruiting leaders, train them and make them ministers to run the government.

v. Parties shape public opinion by raising and highlighting important issues. Political parties sometimes also launch movements for the resolution of problems faced by people.

vi. Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of opposition to the parties in power by voicing different views and criticising government for its failures or wrong policies.

vii. Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments. Parties have to be responsive to people's needs and demands otherwise people can reject those parties in the next elections.