

CBSE Test Paper - 05
Chapter - 21 Political Parties

1. Which party stands for the cause of securing the interests and welfare of the dalits and oppressed people? **(1)**
 - a. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
 - b. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
 - c. Indian National Congress (INC)
 - d. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
2. From the following which function is not performed by Political Party? **(1)**
 - a. In a democracy, a large number of similar opinions have to be grouped together to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the governments.
 - b. Parties shape private opinion.
 - c. Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare scheme
 - d. Parties select their candidates in different ways.
3. Which of the following does not pertain to lack of internal democracy within parties? **(1)**
 - a. Parties do not hold organisational meeting.
 - b. Parties keep membership registers.
 - c. concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.
 - d. Parties conduct internal elections irregularly.
4. Identify the personality :
 1. He was the Prime Minister of Italy.
 2. He is also one of the top business man in Italy. **(1)**
 - a. Lenin
 - b. Nelson Mandela
 - c. Berlusconi
 - d. Karl Marx

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5. What is meant by one-party system? **(1)**
 - a. When one party is allowed to contest elections
 - b. One single person runs the parties
 - c. When the King rules the country
 - d. One single party runs the government
 6. Which organisation does recognize 'Political Parties' In India? **(1)**
 7. What is the party system in the UK? **(1)**
 8. What is the guiding philosophy of Bharatiya Janata Party proper? **(1)**
 9. What are the main components of a political party? **(1)**
 10. 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. **(3)**
 11. Name the national parties of India in a chronological order. **(3)**
 12. What is a political party? What are the components of a political party? **(3)**
 13. “Increasing the number of states or regional parties strengthen democracy in India”.
Justify the statement with suitable examples. **(3)**
 14. Explain four basic elements of Political Party. **(5)**
 15. Explain the role of regional political parties in Indian politics. **(5)**

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Answers

1. d. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

Explanation: Bahujan Samaj Party seeks to represent and secure power for the Bahujan Samaj which includes the Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities. It stands for the cause of securing the interests and welfare of the Dalits and oppressed people

2. b. Parties shape private opinion.

Explanation: Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues.

3. b. Parties keep membership registers.

Explanation: The first challenge is lack of internal democracy within parties. All over the world there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top. Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings, and do not conduct internal elections regularly.

4. c. Berlusconi

Explanation: Berlusconi was the Prime Minister of Italy. He is also one of the top businessmen in Italy. He is the leader of the Forza Italia founded in 1993.

5. d. One single party runs the government

Explanation: In some countries only one party is allowed to control and run the government. These are called one-party systems.

6. Election Commission of India recognizes 'Political Parties' in India and more than 750 parties are registered with the Election Commission of India.

7. In UK is Multi-party system is prevalent.

8. i. Cultural Nationalism.

ii. India's ancient culture and values.

iii. A uniform civil code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion.

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9.
 - i. The leader
 - ii. The active members
 - iii. The followers

10. Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)

- i. Founded in 1964. Believes in Marxism-Leninism, supports socialism, and secularism.
- ii. Accepts democratic elections as a useful means for securing the objective of socio-economic justice in India.
- iii. Has been in power in West Bengal without a break for 30 years.
- iv. It is anti-colonialism and promotes social and economic justice.,
- v. They believe that revolution can come about through an alliance with workers and peasants

11. The six national parties in chronological order are:

- i. Indian National Congress – 1885
- ii. Communist Party of India – 1925
- iii. Communist Party of India (Marxist) - 1964
- iv. Bhartiya Janta Party- 1980
- v. Bahujan Samaj Party – 1984
- vi. Nationalist Congress Party – 1999

12. **Political Party:** A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. Always political parties take some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good. There are different views on what is good for the society and people. Every political party wants to persuade people why their policies are better than other parties and try to win the support of people.

Three Components of a Political Party:

- i. The Leaders Every political party has some prominent leaders who formulate policies and programmes of the party and choose candidates for contesting elections.
- ii. The Active Members They are involved in different committees of the party and participate directly in their activity.

iii. The Followers They believe in the party's ideology and support the party by casting their votes in favour of the party at the time of election.

13. 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 strengthens the federal system of the democracy.

i. They provide a variety of choice to people as they each have different agendas and focus on separate issues.

ii. They provide a platform for different pressure and social groups and communities to put forward their demands.

iii. They help in power-sharing by sharing power of government with the help of coalition government.

14. Political party is an organised group of people having common ideology whose main aim to contest in elections, come to power and retain power.

Following are the basic elements of a political party:

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

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

iii. Organisation: The member of political party with common interest forms a organization that is political party.

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

v. It must have a proper organisational structure that would include a leader, active members who are strongly associated with it holding positions within the party.

vi. A political party must represent national interest and must be broad in its outlook, it must have an ideology that must encompass various sections and interests of the country. It must not be elitist in its approach rather must have mass following.

vii. A party must resort to constitutional methods like elections to come to power and must not resort to unconstitutional means

15. Apart from the national parties, most of the major parties of the country are classified by the Election Commission of India as 'state parties.' These are also referred to as regional parties. The following points explain the role of regional political parties in Indian politics

- i. These parties need not always be regional in their ideology. Parties like All India Trinamool Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party, Samata Party, have a national level political organisation with units present in several states. Some parties like Mizo National Front and Biju Janata Dal, are conscious about their state identity.
- ii. Since 1996, there has been no national party that was able to secure on its own a majority in Indian Lok Sabha. The national parties have been compelled to form an alliance with the state parties to come to power. Thus, this has helped in the increase in the number and strength of the regional parties. This, in turn, has contributed to the federalism and democracy in our country being further strengthened.
- iii. This situation is applicable to state politics as well. If a party is unable to win the required number of seats in the Legislative Assembly, a coalition among a number of regional and/or national parties is the only option.
- iv. If a regional party has a stronghold in the centre, the region from which the party hails will automatically get a solid platform and again this could be detrimental to the conditions in the other states.
- v. Regional parties play a vital role in Indian politics and their influence is important in the Central Government planning process and decisions, apart from their significance in particular region or state. In the 16th Lok Sabha election, Bharatiya Janata Party got an absolute majority which made the end of the era of Coalition Government in centre. This emphatic victory has re-opened the question of [alliance amongst regional parties in our country.