



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: Social Science	Sub: CIVICS
Chapter-4 Question Bank:4	Topic: Political Parties	Year: 2022-2023

1	<p>What is a political party? Analyze the three components of a political party.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>A political party is an association or a voluntary group of people who come together to contest election and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.</p> <p>The following are the three elements of a political party.</p> <p>The leaders: The leaders contest elections and, if they win, perform the administrative jobs.</p> <p>The active members: The active members attend party meetings and are close to the party leaders. They can be called the assistants of the leaders.</p> <p>The followers: The followers are the dedicated workers of the party. They work under the able guidance of the active members.</p>
2	<p>Why do Political parties involve partisanship?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partisanship is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue and a person who is strongly committed to a party is called as a Partisan.• Parties reflect fundamental political divisions in a society.• Parties are a part of the society and they involve partisanship.
3	<p>“Political Parties perform various functions”. Which are they?</p> <p>Ans: The following are the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contest elections: Parties contest elections. In countries like India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections and in countries like USA members and supporters of parties choose its candidates.• Put forward policies and programmes: Parties put forward different policies and programmes and voters choose from them. People may have different opinions and political parties group together a large number of similar opinions to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the government.• Play an important role in making laws: Political parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally, laws are debated and passed in the legislature, but since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the direction of the party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinions.• Form and run government: Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want.• Provide access to government machinery and welfare schemes: Political parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments. For an ordinary citizen, it is easy to approach a local party leader than a government officer. Parties have to be responsive to the people’s needs, otherwise people

	<p>can reject parties in the next election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play the role of opposition: The party which loses election plays the role of opposition. Opposition party tries to put checks on the ruling party by constantly criticizing its policies. • Shape public opinion: Parties have lakhs of members spread all over the country and they raise relevant issues. Parties also conduct movements against the problems faced by the people.
4	<p>Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.’ Analyze the statement with examples.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>“Modern Democracy cannot exist without Political Parties” Do you agree?. Justify your answer</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>In a democratic set-up, political parties are required because without political parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every candidate in the elections will be independent so no one will be able to make any promises to the people about any major policy changes. • The government may be formed, but it’s utility will remain uncertain. • Elected representatives will only be accountable to their constituency, but no one will be responsible for running the country. • Lager societies need representative democracy and political parties are needed to collect different views on various issues. • No one will be responsible for bringing various representatives together and there will be no mechanism to support the government, make policies or oppose them. So political parties are a necessary condition of a democracy. • The rise of political parties is directly linked to the rise of representative democracies. <p>So political parties are a necessary condition or essential in democracy.</p>
5	<p>Describe the various party systems existing in different countries.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>One-party or Single Party system:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some countries, only one party is allowed to control and run the government. It is called one-party system. • We cannot consider one-party system as a good option because this is not a democratic option. • Any democratic system must allow at least two parties to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for the competing parties to come to power. Example: Communist Party of China. <p>Two-party or Bi- Party system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties. • Here, only the two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority seats to form the government. Example: USA and UK.

	<p>Multi-party system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power, either on their own or in alliance with others, it is called a multi-party system. • 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. Example: India.
6	<p>What is front or alliance? Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • For example, in India there were three major alliances in 2004 elections – The National Democratic Alliance, The United Progressive Alliance and The Left Front.
7	<p>What is a 'Coalition government'? Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When none of the political parties gets majority of seats in the elections, the government is formed by various parties coming together. It is a Coalition government. • A Coalition government have neither political stability nor decision making ability. • In other words, in a coalition government, the Prime Minister has to undergo a lot of constrains, because he can't take a final decision. Before taking any final decision, he has to get the consent of the other political parties in his alliance.
8	<p>What is meant by a national political party? State the conditions required to be a national political party. Ans: A national political party is a party that is present in several or all units of the federation. In other words, it is a country-wide party. It has its units in various states. By and large, all these units follow the same policies. The following are the conditions required for a party to become a national party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A party has to secure at least six percent of total votes polled in the Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states. • It has to win at least four seats in the Lok Sabha to be recognized as a national party
9	<p>What is meant by a Regional /State party? State the conditions required to be recognized as a regional political party. Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Regional party, also called a State party, is a political party which takes care of regional concerns and state's interests only. It happens to have succeeded only in some state's units of the federation. <p>The following are the conditions required for a party to be recognised as a regional party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A party has to secure at least six per cent of the total votes polled in the election to the legislative assembly of a state.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has to win at least two seats in the election to the legislative assembly of a state to be recognised as a state or regional party.
10	<p>What are the challenges faced by political Parties in India?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>As political parties are the essence of democracy, it is natural that they are often blamed for the failure of any policy or the working of democracy. Mostly, political parties face the following challenges in their working area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of internal democracy: Parties do not hold organizational meetings, they do not conduct regular internal elections, membership of the party members is not fairly registered, all the members, except top leaders, are not included in the decision-making process. • Dynastic succession: Another challenge is that in most of the political parties, the top posts are always controlled by the members of one family, which is very unfair to other members. Since open and transparent functioning is lacking, there are very few chances for an ordinary worker to rise to the top. • Money and muscle power: The third challenge is the growing role of money and muscle power. Nowadays, elections are focused mainly on winning at any cost, so parties try to use short-cuts like using money and muscle power. They try to select or nominate those candidates who can raise money or provide muscle power. Sometimes, wealthy people and big companies also get involved in the democratic politics for their own interest and try to influence the decision-making process. In some cases, parties support criminals who can win elections. • Absence of a meaningful choice: In recent years there has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world, so they do not provide a meaningful choice to voters. Difference between the Labour Party and Conservative Party in Britain is very little. In India, where we have multi-party system, the differences between the parties over the economic matters have reduced. Also, people cannot even elect different leaders because the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another.
11	<p>Describe in brief the recent efforts that have been made in India to reform political parties and its leaders.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Recent efforts to reform political parties and its leaders are as given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-defection law: The anti-defection law was passed to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing their parties. It was seen that many MLAs and MPs were changing their parties for personal gains. Now, according to the law, if any MLA or MP changes his/her party, his/her seat in the legislature will be lost. Also, MLAs and MPs have to accept whatever the party leaders decide. • Filing of an affidavit: The Supreme Court has made it mandatory for every candidate who contests an election to file an affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. This has been done to reduce the influence of money and criminals. • Mandatory organizational meeting and filing of ITR: The Election Commission has made it

	<p>necessary for political parties to hold their organizational elections and file their income tax returns.</p> <p>Other important suggestions to reform Political Parties are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties including the maintenance of a register of its members, following its own constitution, having an independent authority, act as a judge in case of party disputes and hold open elections to the highest posts. • It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum of one-third of the party tickets to women candidates. • There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money to support their election expenses in cash or in kind (petrol, paper, telephone, etc.) on the basis of the votes secured by the party in the last election. • People can pressurize political parties through petitions, publicity, and protests. Ordinary citizens, pressure groups, and movements along with media can play an important role in forcing the parties to keep a check on its reforms. • Public participation is essential in reforming the level of politics. Citizens, by directly joining political parties can contribute towards the betterment of the nature of politics.
12	<p>Why did India adopt multi-party system? Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India adopted multi-party system because of its social and geographical diversity. • In such a diverse country two or even three parties cannot absorb all differences.
13	<p>'No party system is ideal for all countries and all situations.' Justify the statement with arguments Ans: No party system is ideal for all countries and all situations. This statement can be justified through the following arguments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one-party system cannot be considered a good option because the voters do not have any choice and it is not a democratic option. • A two-party system cannot be considered ideal for a country because in this system, power usually shifts from one party to the other. Several other parties with better programmes and policies may exist, contest elections and win a few seats, but only the two party have serious chance of forming government. • A multiparty system also cannot be considered a good option because it often appears messy and leads to political instability. In this system the government is formed by various parties and ideologies coming together which may further raise issues and conflicts.
14	<p>How do state or regional political parties contribute in strengthening federalism and democracy in India? Explain with examples. Ans: State and regional political parties contribute in strengthening federalism and democracy in India in the following ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provide a variety of choice to people as each of them has different agendas and focus on different issues. • They provide a platform for different pressure and social groups, and communities to put forward their demands.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They help in power sharing by sharing power of government with the help of coalition government.
15	<p>What is the source of inspiration of the 'Bhartiya Janata Party'?</p> <p>Ans: The source of inspiration of the Bhartiya Janata Party or the BJP is ancient Indian culture and values.</p>
16	<p>Examine the role of opposition parties in a Democracy.</p> <p>Ans: Opposition parties play an important role in democracies. They play both positive and negative roles.</p> <p>Positive role They ensure political party in power does not misuse or abuse its power; They expose the weaknesses of the ruling party; They also keep a close vigil on the bills and expenditure of the government.</p> <p>Negative role They target the government and aim at discrediting the government for all the ills and the troubles the people face; Through interrupting the proceedings of the parliament, it curtails the progress of the country. The opposition's work is not to obstruct the functioning of the administration but keep a close watch on the working of the party in power so that democracy becomes meaningful.</p>