



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: x	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Date of submission:
Question Bank	Topic : Political Parties	Year:2020-21

1. Why did India adopt multi-party system?

Ans:

- 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.

2. '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

- 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.

3. How do state or regional political parties contribute in strengthening federalism and democracy in India? Explain with examples.

State and regional political parties contribute in strengthening federalism and democracy in India in the following ways.

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

4) What is the source of inspiration of the 'Bhartiya Janata Party'?

The source of inspiration of the Bhartiya Janata Party or the BJP is ancient Indian culture and values.

5) Given one point of difference between a pressure group and a political party.

A pressure group is an organized or unorganized body that seeks to promote its interests while a political party is a body that seeks to attain political power by contesting elections.

6) "Political Parties perform various functions". Which are they?

The following are the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.

Contest elections: Parties contest elections. In countries like India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.

Put forward policies and programmes: Parties put forward different policies and programmes and voters choose from them. Political parties accommodate different views and opinions.

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: To run the government, political parties prepare a council of ministers by recruiting and training the leaders.

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.

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: One of the most important functions of political parties is that they shape public opinion on relevant issues for the proper functioning of the government and to deepen the concept of democracy

7) "Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy." Analyze the statement with examples.

OR

"Modern democracies can't exist without political parties". Do you agree? Justify

In a democratic set-up, political parties are required because without political parties:

- every candidate in the elections will be independent. No promises could be made and the utility of the government formed will remain uncertain.
- no one will be responsible for running the country. Elected representatives will only be accountable to their constituency
- there will be no agency to gather and present different views on various issues to the government.
- no one will be responsible for bringing various representatives together so as to form a responsible government.
- there will be no mechanism to support the government, make policies and justify or oppose them.

8) What are the challenges faced by political Parties in India?

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.

Lack of internal democracy: Political parties face the problem of internal democracy, which implies that:

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 the present political scenario, there is no ideological difference among the political parties, so they do not provide a meaningful choice to voters. Those voters, who really want a change in the government and its policies, never get any positive option. For instance, 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

9) Describe in brief the recent efforts that have been made in India to reform political parties and its leaders.

Ans:

Recent efforts to reform political parties and its leaders are as given below :

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 organisational meeting and filing of ITR: The Election Commission has made it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.

Other important suggestions to reform Political Parties are:

- 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.

10) Examine the role of opposition parties in a Democracy.

Opposition parties play an important role in democracies. They play both positive and negative roles.

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.

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 abstract the functioning of the administration but keep a close watch on the working of the party in power so that democracy becomes meaningful.