

Political Parties

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Previous Years' Questions

Q.1. Define political party.

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Ans. A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and to acquire political power.

Additional Questions

Q.2. Can we have a partyless democracy?

Ans. No, it is not possible to have a partyless democracy. Parties are necessary to represent the population of a country.
⇒ Parties help to conduct elections in the systematic working of the legislature.
⇒ Without political parties, cliques or secret societies would be formed which would degrade politics as they are in the nature of conspiracies.

Q.3. Give the main features of political parties.

Ans. The main features of political parties are :
⇒ They have some measures of agreement on fundamental principles, which are organised and their membership can run into millions.
⇒ They capture power through peaceful democratic means and put national interest before the party interest.

Q.4. Why do parties involve partisanship ?

Ans. As political parties reflect fundamental political division in a society, so parties are a part of the society and thus involve "Partisanship."

Q.5. Do political parties educate people ?

Ans. Besides aggregating like-minded people, parties also play an educative role. They educate people through various means like debates, discussions, etc. inside the Parliament.

Q.6. In what way political parties play the role of opposition ?

Ans. 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 of wrong policies
⇒ Opposition parties also mobilise opposition to the government.

Q.7. How do political parties shape public opinion ?

Ans. Political parties shape public opinion by raising and highlighting public issues. Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread all over the country.

Q.8. What do you mean by an opposition party ?

Ans. The parties which don't get a majority of votes form the opposition in the legislature and check the government. These are known as the "opposition parties". They are also called the "Political minority".

Q.9. Briefly explain one or mono-party system with example.

Ans. The One-party system is such a political system in which only one party is allowed to control and run the government. They are also called mono-party system.

Q.10. What is an ideological one-party system ?

Ans. An "Ideological one party" system is the party system which is based on the ideological reasons; coercion and suppression of other parties.

- There is no opposition party in this party system, e.g.. Fascist ideology.

Q.11. What do you mean by a two party or bi-party system ? Explain with example.

Ans. A two-party or Bi-party system is one in which the power alternates between two parties.

⇒ In this party system, the party, which gets the majority, forms the government and the other party forms the opposition.

⇒ For example; in United States of America there are the Democratic Party and Republican Party; in United Kingdom there are the Conservatives and the Labour Party.

Q.12. What are the various types of political parties ?

Ans. Democracies that follow a federal system all over the world tend to have two kinds of political parties : National Political Party, Regional or State Party.

⇒ "Regional or State Party" are present in only one of the federal units.

⇒ "National Parties" are present in several or all units of the federation,

Q.13. What do you understand by a multi-party system ?

Ans. "Multi-party system" is a political system in which 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 others. In India we have a multi-party system.

Q.14. List out two disadvantages of a multi-party system.

Ans. The multi-party system suffers from some drawbacks like :

⇒ Weak and Unstable Government : In a multi-party system the government is weak and unstable as it is a coalition based on compromise.

⇒ Confused Accountability : Responsibility is not easy to fix in multi-party system as different parties blame each other.

Q.15. Explain the term coalition government.

Ans. A coalition is generally in a multi-party system when no single party wins a majority of seats, many parties get together to form the government, based on compromise and tolerance.

Q.16. How many parties are registered with the Election Commission ?

Ans. In a democracy any group of citizens is free to form a political party. So more than 750 parties are registered with the Election Commission of India at present.

Q.17. How does a party system evolve in any country ?

Or

List the factors that determine the nature of a Party system in a democracy.

Ans. Party system is not something that 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
- its system of elections

Q.18. What do you understand by a national political party ?

Ans. A party that is present in several or all units of a federation is known as National Party. The national parties are countrywide parties, so these parties have their units in various states.

Q.19. What is a recognised party ?

Ans. Parties which are not the State or National Party but are otherwise registered with the Election Commission are called "Recognised Registered Parties". These parties get privileges and other special facilities from the Election Commission.

Q.20. Give the meaning of state or regional party.

Ans. A party of the state that secures at least 6 per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state and wins at least two seats is recognised as a State or Regional party. State parties have limited, regional influence and deal with regional issues.

Q.21. List out the regional party of India.

Ans. Regional parties or state parties are listed out on the basis of their nature like National level identity and state level identities. For example —

Samajwadi Party	}	National Identities
Samata Party		
Rashtriya Janata Dal		

Biju Janata Dal	}	State Level Identities
Sikhim Democratic Front		
Mizo National party		

Q.22. What is politics ?

Ans. "Politics" refers to such activities by which conflicts concerning the common good and common interest are settled.

Q.23. What do you mean by state funding of election expenses of political parties in India ?

Ans. The Concept of state funding of election signifies that the government should give money to political parties to support their election expenses.

⇒ This support could be given in cash, kind : petrol, paper, telephone etc. or.

Q.24. Define Defection.

Ans. Defection is a new concept which advocates the changing of party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party.

Anti-defection law was introduced to check the menace.

Q.25. What type of political party system we have in our country ?

Ans. Our country has evolved a Multiparty system because of the social and geographical diversity.

26. How does the new system of Affidavit reduce the money and muscle power in politics ?

Ans. "An Affidavit" is a signed document submitted to an officer, where a person makes a sworn statement regarding his or her antecedents.

⇒ The Supreme Court passed this order to reduce the influence of money and muscle power.

27. What are the main components of a political party ?

Ans. There are three main components of a political party :

- (i) The leaders
- (ii) The active members
- (iii) The keen followers

28. What is a political party ?

Ans. A political party is a group of people which come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.

29. Define Ruling Party.

Ans. The party which gets majority of votes and forms the government is called Ruling Party.

30. What does the term Partisan signify ?

Ans. The term Partisan signifies a person who is strongly committed to a party, group or faction. It gives rise to the tendency of "Partisanship".

31. Are political parties only present in big countries ?

Ans. No, Political parties are not present only in big countries only like India but also in small countries like Nepal.

32. Why do we need political parties ? State one reason.

Ans. We need political parties because they provide an important two way link between the government and the people in order to unite and aggregate like-minded people.

33. Give the meaning of an Alliance.

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 a front e.g., in India "National Democratic Alliance."

34. List the types of party system with examples.

Ans. There are three types of Party system :

- Mono-(one) party system – China
- Two-party system – UK and USA
- Multi-party system – India.

35. On what basis does a country choose its party system ?

Ans. A country chooses its party system on the basis of its :

- Nature of society
- Social differences
- History of the elections.

36. Which two parties were formed after they split with the parent party ?

Ans. Nationalist Congress Party – from the "Congress Party"

- Communist Party of India (Marxist) i.e. CPI (M) – from Communist Party.

37. Name the oldest Political Party in India.

Ans. "Indian National Congress" also known as the Congress Party" is the oldest Political Party in India. It was founded in 1885.

38. On what basis state parties cannot be recognised as national parties ?

Ans. If state parties do not get success in at least four states, they cannot be recognized as the National Parties.

39. Which state has maximum recognised regional or state parties ?

Ans. "Tamil Nadu" of southern region has maximum recognised regional or state parties.

40. Which constituents force suggest reforms in political parties ?

Ans. The three constituents can force the Political Parties to reform Like