

Political Parties

Very Short Answer Questions

1. What is the concept of political parties in rural areas?

Ans. If we travel to remote parts of our country and speak to the less educated citizens, we could come across people who may not know anything about our constitution or about the nature of our government. But chances are that they would know something about our political parties.

2. What is a political party?

Ans. A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promoting the collective good.

3. What does 'Partisanship' mean?

Ans. It is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue.

4. What does 'partisan' mean?

Ans. A person who is strongly committed to a party, group or faction.

5. What are the components of a political party?

Ans. (i) The leaders,
(ii) The active members
(iii) The followers

6. How do parties contribute in the making of law?

Ans. 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.

7. How do parties run the government of a country?

Ans. Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want;

8. What is the role of opposition in a democracy?

Ans. Opposition parties voice different views and criticise the government for its failures or wrong policies.

9. Is it true that political parties shape public opinion?

Ans. Yes, it is true as parties sometimes also launch movements for the resolution of problems faced by people. Often opinions in the society crystallise on the lines parties take.

10. How much accountable are parties?

Ans. Parties have to be responsive to people's needs and demands. Otherwise people can reject those parties in the next election.

11. At what level there are non-party based elections in our country?

Ans. Non-party based elections are held in panchayats of many states in India.

12. How does it affect the Panchayati system?

Ans. Although, the parties do not contest formally, it is generally noticed that the village gets split into more than one faction, each of which puts up a 'panel' of its candidates.

13. Why do larger societies need representative democracy?

Ans. As societies became large and complex, they also needed some agency to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government.

They needed some ways to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government could be formed.

14. Why are parties a necessary condition for a democracy?

Ans. People need a mechanism to support or restrain the government, make policies, justify and oppose them. Political parties fulfill all these needs. So, we can say that parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.

15. What is one-party system?

Ans. In some countries, only one party is allowed to control and run the government. It is called one-party system. E.g., China.

16. Is it democratic to have one-party system?

Ans. (i) We cannot consider one-party system as a good option because this is not democratic option.

(ii) 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.

17. What is a Bi-party system?

Ans. In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties. Such a party system is called bi-party system. E.g., UK and USA.

18. What is a multi-party system?

Ans. If several parties compete to power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others, we call it a multi-party system.

19. What is an 'alliance' or a 'front'?

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.

20. Name three major alliances of India.

Ans. (i) The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) formed by BJP

(ii) The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) formed by Congress I.

(iii) Left Front formed by Communist Parties of India.

21. Give one merit of multi-party system.

Ans. This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

22. Give one demerit of multi-party system.

Ans. The multi-party system often appears very messy and leads to political instability.

23. How does a country choose a party system?

Ans. It evolves over a long time, depending on the nature of society, its social and regional divisions, its history of politics and its system of elections.

24. Why did India choose to have a multi-party system?

Ans. India has evolved a multi-party systems, it is because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties.

25. What are national parties?

- Ans. There are some country-wide parties, which are called 'national parties'.
All these units follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that are decided at the national level.
- 26.** Define 'regional parties' on the basis of election commission of India.
Ans. A party that secures at least six percent 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 party.
- 27.** How is a party recognised as 'national party' by the Election Commission of India.
Ans. A party that secures at least six percent of that votes in Lok Sabha elections or assembly elections in four states and wins at least four seats in Lok Sabha is recognised as a national party.
- 28.** When was INC formed? What is its symbol?
Ans. Indian National Congress was formed in 1885. Its symbol is 'hand'.
- 29.** Which coalition is formed by INC?
Ans. United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition government is formed by INC for the government at the centre.
- 30.** When was BJP founded? What is its symbol?
Ans. BJP was founded in 1980. Its symbol is lotus.
- 31.** Which coalition alliance is formed by BJP?
Ans. National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition is formed by BJP for forming government at the centre level.
- 32.** When was BSP formed? What is its symbol?
Ans. Bahujan Samaj Party was formed in 1984. Its symbol is Elephant.
- 33.** Which classes are represented by BSP?
Ans. It seeks to represent and secure power for the Bahujan Samaj which includes the dalits, adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities.
- 34.** Name the 'National Parties' of India.
Ans. (1) Indian National Congress.
(2) Bhartiya Janata Party
(3) Bahujan Samaj Party
(4) Communist Party of India (Marxist)
(5) Communist Party of India (CPI)
(6) National Congress Party (NCP)
- 35.** Name the regional parties of Jammu and Kashmir with its symbols.
Ans. (i) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference - Bird
(ii) Jammu and Kashmir National Panther Party - Cycle
(iii) Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party - Ink Pot and Pen
- 36.** Name regional Parties of Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand with symbols.
Ans. (i) Uttarakhand - Kranti Dal - Chair
(ii) Punjab - Shiromani Akali Dal - Weighing Scale
(iii) Haryana - Lok Dal - Spectacles.
- 37.** Name regional parties of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka with symbol.
Ans. (i) Maharashtra - Shiv Sena - bow and arrow.

(ii) Goa - United Goan Democratic Party - Two leaves.

38. Name regional parties of Tamil Nadu with symbols.

- Ans. (i) All India Anna Dmk - Two leaves.
(ii) Dravida Munretra Kazhagam, Symbol - Rising Sun
(iii) Pattali Makkai Katchi - Mango
(iv) Marumalrchi Dravida Munretra Kazhgam - Spinning Top

39. Name regional parties of West Bangal with symbols.

- Ans. (i) Forward Block - Lion
(ii) Revolutionary Socialist Party - Spade and Shovel
(iii) Trinamool Congress - A pair of flowers.

40. Name regional parties of Bihar with their symbols.

- Ans. (i) Janata Dal (U) - Arrow
(ii) Lok Jan Shakti Party - A hut
(iii) Rashtriya Janata Dal - Kerosene Lamp.

41. Name regional parties of Andhra, Orissa and Sikkim with their Symbols.

- Ans. (i) Andhra Pradesh - Telgu Desham - A bicycle.
(ii) Andhra - Telangana Rashtra Samiti - A Car.
(iii) Odisha - Biju Janta Dal - Sea Shell.
(iv) Sikkim - Sikkim Democratic front - Umbrella.

42. Name regional parties of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh with their Symbols.

- Ans. (i) Assam- Assam United Democratic Party - Lock and Key.
(ii) Assam Gana Parishad - Elephant.
(iii) Arunachal - Arunachal Congress - Two swords

43. How do money and muscle power tend to help the contestant of the elections?

- Ans. Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.

44. It is said that, "No meaningful choice is given to the voters." Explain.

- Ans. It means in recent years there has been decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world. E.g., the difference between the labour party and the conservative party in Britain is very low.

45. What is 'defection'?

- Ans. Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected (to a legislative body) to a different party.

46. What order is passed by supreme court to reduce the influence of money and criminals?

- Ans. Now it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. This new system has made a lot of information available to the public.