

CHAPTER

5

POLITICAL PARTIES

Syllabus

- *What role do political parties play in competition and contestation?*
- *Which are the major national and regional parties in India?*



TOPIC-1

Political Parties – An Introduction

Quick Review

What is a political party?

- A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
- It mobilises voters to support common sets of interests, concerns and goals.
- A political party fixes the political agenda and policies and tries to persuade people by claiming that their policies are better than those of other parties.
- A political party is the means through which people can speak to the government and have a say in the governance of any country.
- **A political party has three components :**
 - the leaders,
 - the active members, and
 - the followers.
- **Functions :**
 - Parties contest elections by putting up candidates.
 - In some countries, candidates are selected by members and supporters of a party (for e.g., USA).
 - In other countries, candidates for contesting elections are chosen by top party leaders — for e.g., India.
 - Parties put forward different policies and programmes and voters choose from them. In a democracy, a large number of people with similar opinions group together and form a party and then give a direction to the policies followed by the government.
 - The parties that lose elections form the opposition and voice different views and criticize the government for their failures and wrong policies. They mobilise opposition to the government.
 - They shape public opinion. Parties with the help of pressure groups launch movements for solving problems faced by the people.
 - Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by the government. For an ordinary citizen it is easy to approach a local party leader than a government officer.
- **Need for political parties :**
 - The democracies cannot exist without political parties being clear about the functions they perform.
- **If there were no political parties then :**
 - All candidates in an election would become independent candidates. They cannot promise any major policy changes to the people. No one will be responsible for how the country runs.

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- In large societies, only representative democracy can work. Political parties become an agency to gather different views on various issues and present them to the government.

Know the Terms

- **Political party** : A political party is a group of people with a definite agenda and who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
- **Election** : An election is a formal group decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office.

Know the Links

- www.elections.in/political-parties-in-india/
- www.authorstream.com/Presentation/singhmishant007-147535
- www.powershow.com/view/4185a-NmI1M/Politics_of_India



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- Q. 1. What is meant by 'Political Party'?
[Board Term-II, 2015]
OR
Explain the meaning of 'Political Party'.
[Board Term – II, Outside Delhi Compartment, Set I, II, III 2017]
- Ans. A political party is a group of people come together to contest elections to hold power in the government. 1
- Q. 2. What is an important function of a political party in India?
- Ans. To contest elections. 1
- Q. 3. Who take direct part in the elections?
- Ans. Political parties. 1
- Q. 4. What are the main components of a political party?
- Ans. The leaders, the active members, and the followers are three components of a political party. 1
- Q. 5. What is a ruling party?
- Ans. Political party that runs the government. 1



Short Answer Type Question

(3 marks)

- Q. 1. Analyse the three components of a political party.
[Board Term-II, 2016, Outside Delhi Set-3]
OR
Describe the three components of a political party.
[Board Term-II, 2014]
- Ans. Three components of a political party are :
- The leaders : A political party consists of leaders, who contest elections and if they win them, perform the administrative job.
 - The active members : They are the ones, who climb a ladder from being the follower and become the assistants of the leaders to gain knowledge about the politics.
 - The followers : They are simply the ardent followers of the leaders and work under the able guidance of the active members.



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

- Q. 1. What is meant by a political party? Describe the three components of a political party.
[Board Term-II, Outside Delhi, Set-1, 2, 3 2015]
- Ans. Political Party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
Three components of a political party are :
- The leaders : A political party consists of leaders, who contest elections and if they win them, perform the administrative job.
 - The active members : They are the ones, who climb a ladder from being the follower and become the assistants of the leaders to gain knowledge about the politics.
 - The followers : They are simply the ardent followers of the leaders and work under the able guidance of the active members.
- [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 2 + 3 = 5
- Q. 2. Describe any five major functions of political parties.
[Board Term-II, Set-2, 3 2015]
- Ans. Functions of political parties :
- Parties contest elections.
 - They put forward policies and programmes.

- (iii) Parties play a decisive role in making laws.
- (iv) Parties form and run government.
- (v) Defeated parties in the election play its role of opposition to the parties in power.
- (vi) Parties shape public opinion.
- (vii) Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

[U] Q. 3. Explain two functions each of the ruling party as well of the opposition parties.

[Board Term–II, (Set-68001) 2012]

Ans. Functions of the ruling parties :

- (i) They play a major role in making laws for the country.
- (ii) They form the government and run the country.
- (iii) They recruit leaders, train them and then make ministers to run the government.

Functions of the opposition parties :

- (i) They oppose the government by voicing different views.
- (ii) They criticise government for its failure and wrong policies.
- (iii) They mobilise opposition to the government.

$2\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

[U] Q. 4. How do political parties help in shaping public opinion? Explain.

[Board Term–II, (Set-68001) 2012]

Ans. Role of political parties in shaping public opinion as :

- (i) They raise and highlight issues.
- (ii) They form pressure groups as an extension.
- (iii) They launch movement for the resolution of problems faced by the people.
- (iv) They have lakhs of members and activists.

$1\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

[U] Q.5. What are the characteristics of a political party?

Ans. (i) A political party has members who agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote common good.

(ii) It seeks to implement the policies by winning popular support through elections.

(iii) A political party has three components: the leaders, the active members and the followers.

(iv) A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.

$1\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 5$

[U] Q.6. What is the role of Opposition?

OR

[U] **What is the function of the Opposition party?**

Ans. Opposition party is a party which does not win elections in sufficient numbers to form a government, but it keeps an eye on the working of the ruling party and acts as a check on their activities. It keeps a check on their expenditures, brings their failure before the public. If also protects the rights and liberties of the people by not allowing any law to be passed which threatens their fundamental rights.

5



TOPIC-2

Types of Party Systems

Quick Review

➤ Party system

There are three types of party systems :

- One-party system
- Two-party system and
- Multi-party system.
- **One-Party System :** In some countries only one party is allowed to control and run the government. There is no competition in this system. The mono party nominates the candidates and the voters have only two choices — (a) Not to vote at all or (b) write 'yes' or 'no' against the name of the candidates nominated by the party. This system has been popular in Communist countries and other authoritarian regime, e.g., China, North Korea and Cuba. This system was also prevalent in USSR till Communism collapsed.
- **Two-Party System :** Power changes between two major, dominant parties. In this system, to win elections, the winner has to get maximum number of votes, but not necessarily a majority of votes. The smaller parties usually merge with the bigger parties or they drop out of elections. This parliamentary system prevails in Great Britain and the United States of America, in which only two parties hold significant numbers of seats. Supporters of this system believe that this prevents dangers of fragmentation (too many parties winning seats from different constituencies) and the government can run smoothly.
- **Multi-Party System :** It is the most common type of party system. In this system, three or more parties have the capacity to gain control of the government separately or in coalition. When no party gains a majority of the legislative seats in multi-party parliamentary system, then several parties join hands and

form a coalition government. Supporters of this system point out that it allows more points of views to be represented in the government. Critics of this system point out that multi-party system sometimes leads to political instability.

Know the Terms

- **Mono-party system** : Mono-party system is a political system in which only one party controls and runs the government.
- **Bi-party system** : Bi-party system is a type of system in which power alternates between two parties only. The party that gets the majority forms the government and the other party forms opposition.
- **Multi-party system** : It is a system in which several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming into power either on their own or in alliance with others.
- **Coalition government** : A coalition government is generally formed in a multi-party system, when no single party wins a majority of seats then many parties get together based on compromise and tolerance.
- **An Alliance** :
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. India, in 2004 and 2009, had three such alliances for parliamentary elections :
 - National Democratic Alliance
 - The United Progressive Alliance and
 - Left Front.
- **Proportion of Participation** :
 - Level of participation in the activities of the parties—very high in India.
 - Advanced countries like Canada, Japan, Spain and South Korea—much less.
 - The proportion of people in India who feel close to a political party is very high—membership of political parties has also gone up.

Know the Links

- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Party_system
- www.slideshare.net/.../political-parties-of-india



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- Ⓐ Q. 1. Why is one party political system not considered a good democratic system?
[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, II, III 2016]
Ans. Because one party system has no democratic option. 1
- Ⓤ Q. 2. Why did India adopt multi-party system?
[Board Term-II, Outside Delhi Set-I, II, III, 2016]
OR
Ⓤ Examine the reason to accept multi-party system in India. [Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, 2017]
- Ans. India adopted multi-party system because :
(i) India is a large country and has social and geographical diversities.
(ii) It is easy to absorb different social and geographical diversities in multi-party systems.
(Any one) $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$
- Ⓐ Q. 3. Name a country that has one-party system.
Ans. China. 1
- Ⓐ Q. 4. What is the party system in the UK?
Ans. The UK political system is a multi-party system. 1



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

- Ⓐ Q. 1. Describe any three main features of Two-Party system. [Board Term-II, Foreign Set-III 2015]
- Ans. Main features of two-party system :
- (i) Power usually changes between two parties, several other parties may exist.
 - (ii) In such system, people get clear choice.
 - (iii) The party that wins majority forms the government and the other sits in opposition.
 - (iv) Strong opposition is good for democracy.
 - (v) Prompt decisions are taken and implemented.
 - (vi) More development and less corruption.
- (Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

Q. 2. What is a multi-party system? Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Set-I, III 2015]

Ans. Multi-party system :

If 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, we call it a multi-party system.

India adopted a Multi party system because :

- (i) There is social and geographical diversity in India.
- (ii) India is such a large country, which is not easily absorbed by two or three parties.
- (iii) The system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

(Any two) 1 + 2 = 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

Q. 1. What do you understand by the bi-party system? Write its one merit and one demerit.

[Board Term-II, (Set-68015) 2012]

Ans. Bi-party system :

- (i) In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties. It is also known as two party systems.
- (ii) In this system, the government is formed by one party and the other plays the role of opposition.
Merit—This system allows stability of government as no coalition is there.
Demerit— In this system, only two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority seats to form the government.

5 [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

Q. 2. What is a multi-party system? Explain merits and demerits of multi-party System.

[Board Term-II, Set (68008) 2012]

Ans. In Multi-party system, three or more parties are in the competition to gain control of the government separately or in coalition. When not any single party gain majority votes then several parties join and form a coalition government. Example-India. Supporters of this system point out that it allows more points of view to be presented in the government.

Merits :

- (i) This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.
- (ii) People can make a choice between several candidates.

Demerits :

- (i) No one party is likely to gain power alone. Therefore, it leads to difficulty in formation of government.
- (ii) Leads to political instability and often appears to be very messy.

1 + 2 + 2 = 5

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]



TOPIC-3

National and Regional Parties

Quick Review

- Every party in India has to register with the Election Commission. The Commission treats every party as equal to the others, but it offers special facilities to large and established parties.
- They are given a unique symbol and are called, "recognized political parties."
- **A registered party is recognised as a National Party only if it fulfils any one of the following three conditions :**
 - The party wins 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha (as of 2014, 11 seats) from at least 3 different States.
 - At a General Election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, the party polls 6% of votes in four States and in addition it wins 4 Lok Sabha seats.
 - A party gets recognition as a State Party in four or more states.
- **Introduction to Major Political Parties in India :**
 - **Indian National Congress (INC)** - Indian National Congress (INC) Founded in 1885. After independence it became free India's premier political party. In the first five General Elections held, the Congress virtually controlled the politics of the country.

- **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** - Created in 1980, it champions the socio-religious values of India. Since its formation, the BJP has been a strong rival of the Indian National Congress. It is now in government, and the leading party within the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).
 - **Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)** - The Bahujan Samaj Party is a party formed to represent the OBC, SC, ST and religious minorities, those at the bottom of India's caste system. The BSP was formed in 1984 by two leaders, Kanshiram and Mayawati. It draws inspiration from the teachings of Sahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker.
 - **Communist Party of India (CPI-M)** - The Communist Party of India (Marxist), usually known as CPI (M), split from the Communist Party of India in 1964. It believes in Marxism-Leninism and supports socialism, secularism and democracy. It opposes imperialism and communalism. Its supporters are farmers, agricultural labourers and intelligentsia.
 - **Communist Party of India (CPI)** - It was formed in 1925, believes in Marxism-Leninism, secularism and democracy. It is opposed to the forces of communalism and secessionism. It believes that parliamentary democracy helps the interests of farmers, the working class, and the poor.
 - **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)** - It was formed on May 25, 1999, by Sharad Pawar, P.A. Sangama, and Tariq Anwar after they were thrown out of the Congress Party. NCP have a major support in Maharashtra state. The NCP claims that it supports democracy, Gandhian secularism, equity, social justice and federalism.
- **State or Regional Political Parties :**
- Regional parties need not be regional in their ideology or outlook. Some of these parties are all India parties that happen to have succeeded only in some states.
 - Parties like the Samajwadi Party, Samata Party and Rashtriya Janata Dal have national level political organization with units in several states.
 - Some of these parties like Biju Janata Dal, Sikkim Democratic Front and Mizo National Front are conscious about their state identity.

Know the Terms

- **National party** : A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections or wins four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized as a national party.
- **Regional party** : All parties, other than the six national parties, are classified as state parties by the Election Commission of India. They are also called regional parties.

Know the Links

- www.elections.in/political.../differences-between-regional-and-national-p...
- www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/the-major-regional



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Ⓐ Q. 1. Name the alliance formed by the Congress Party.
[Board Term-II, Set-TCJQ6VD, 2016]</p> <p>Ans. United Progressive Alliance (UPA). 1</p> <p>Ⓐ Q. 2. Which party was the principal opposition party in Lok Sabha in 2004?
[Board Term-II, Set-KCG34U9, 2016]</p> <p>Ans. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). 1</p> <p>Ⓐ Q. 3. What is the guiding philosophy of Bharatiya Janata Party proper?
[Board Term-II, Outside Delhi Set-II, 2015]</p> <p>Ans. (i) Cultural nationalism.
(ii) India's ancient culture and values.
(Any one) $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$</p> | <p>Ⓐ Q. 4. The Bahujan Samaj Party stands for what? Cause.
[Board Term-II, 2011]</p> <p>Ans. Securing the interest of the oppressed people. 1</p> <p>Ⓤ Q. 5. What is the requirement laid down by the Election Commission for a political party to be recognized as a 'State Party'?
[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, II, III, 2015]</p> <p>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 recognized as a state party. 1
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]</p> |
|--|---|

- [A] Q. 6. Name any one political party that has national level political organization but not recognized as the national political party.**

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-I, II, III, 2016]

Ans. Samajwadi Party / Samata Party / Rashtriya Janata Dal (Any one) 1

- [A] Q. 7. Name any two regional parties of West Bengal.**
[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-III, 2015]

Ans. Two regional parties of West Bengal are :

- (i) Marxist Forward Bloc
- (ii) Trinmool Congress. $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$

- [A] Q. 8. When was the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) formed?**

Ans. The CPI(M) was formed at the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India held in Calcutta from 31 October to 7 November 1964. 1

- [A] Q. 9. How many parties are registered with the Election Commission of India?**

Ans. According to the Commission, as on July 24, there are 1,866 political parties which are registered with it. 1

- [U] Q. 10. The BJP formed the government in 1998 as the leader of an alliance. Name the alliance.**

Ans. National Democratic Alliance. 1

- [U] Q. 11. When and under whose leadership was Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) formed?**

Ans. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was founded on the birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (i.e., 14 April 1984) by Kanshi Ram. 1

- [U] Q. 12. What are the criteria to recognise as a National political party in India?**

Ans. A party that wins 6% of total votes cast in the elections for Lok Sabha or Assembly Elections in four states and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is called a national party. 1



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

- [U] Q. 1. What is meant by a 'national political party'? State the conditions required to be a national political party.**

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set- I, II, III, 2016]

Ans. National political parties have units in the various states, they follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level.

Conditions required :

- (i) A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in general elections of Lok Sabha or assembly elections in four states.
- (ii) Wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha.

$1 + 2 = 3$ [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

- [R] Q. 2. Name the national political party which espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities. Mention any four features of that party.**
[Board Term-II, 2013]

Ans. The national political party, which espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities is the Indian National Congress.

Four features of this party are listed below :

- (i) Founded in 1885.
- (ii) Dominated Indian politics, both at the national and state levels, for several decades after India's independence.
- (iii) Ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then from 1980 to 1989. After 1989, its support declined.
- (iv) A centrist party (neither rightist nor leftist) in its ideological orientation.

$1 + \frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2013]

- [U] Q. 3. What is a political party? State any two points of the ideology of Bharatiya Janta Party?**

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, II, III, 2016]

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 promote the collective good.

Ideology of BJP :

- (i) Wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.
- (ii) A uniform civil code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion.
- (iii) Cultural nationalism.

(Any two) $1 + 2 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

- [A] Q. 4. Describe about the ideology and organization of Bahujan Samaj Party.**

[Board Term-II, Set-KCG34U9, 2016]

Ans. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was formed in 1984 under the leadership of Kanshi Ram. Its main aim is that it seeks represent and secure power for the Bahujan Samaj which includes the dalits and adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities.

3 [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

- [U] Q. 5. What is meant by 'regional political party'? State the conditions required to be recognized as a 'regional political party'.**

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-I, II, III, 2016]

Ans. A regional party is a party that is present in only some states.

Conditions required for a party to be recognized as a regional political party are :

- (i) A party that secures at least six percent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state.
- (ii) Wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] $1 + 2 = 3$

- Q. 6. Name any six 'regional political parties' of the four southern states of India.

[Board Term–II, 2014]

Ans. Tamil Nadu — AIADMK (All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam), DMK
 Andhra Pradesh — Telugu Desam, Lok Satta
 Kerala — Kerala Congress (Joseph)
 Puducherry — AINRC (All India N. R. Congress)
 [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] $\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$

- Q. 7. Name the 'regional political parties' that are predominant in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha respectively with their symbols.

[Board Term–II, 2014]

Ans. Jharkhand—JMM—Jharkhand Mukti Morcha
 Maharashtra—INC—Indian National Congress
 Odisha—BJD—Biju Janata Dal
 $1 \times 3 = 3$
 [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014]

- Q. 8. "Nearly every one of the state parties wants to get an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition." Support the statement with arguments.

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-III, 2016]

Ans. State parties seeking national level coalition :
 Before general election of 2014, in three general

elections no one national party was able to secure on its own a majority in Lok Sabha. With the result, the national parties were compelled to form alliances with state or regional parties. Since 1996, nearly every one of the state parties has got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government. This has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 3

- Q. 9. State the conditions as laid down by the Election Commission to recognize a 'state party' and 'national party'.

[Board Term–II, 2014]

Ans. The difference between a state and a national party can be identified as follows :

- In a state party, the party members aim to highlight the regional interests. On the other hand, a national party gives due importance to national interests.
- A state party can contest in elections only in a particular state, whereas a national party can contest in elections all across the country.
- Example: BJP and Congress are national parties, whereas Akali Dal and Trinamool Congress are state level parties.

$1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014]



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

- Q. 1. What is meant by national parties? State the criteria for recognizing a party as National and State party.

[Board Term–II, Set-68008, 2012]

Ans. Democracies that follow a federal system all over the world tend to have two kinds of political parties—Parties that are present in only one of the federal units and parties that are present in several or all units of the federation.

Those parties, which are countrywide parties, are called national parties.

National and State Parties :

- 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 recognized as a state party.
- A party that secures at least six percent of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized as a national party.

$1 + 2 + 2 = 5$ [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

- Q. 2. Name the national political party which gets inspiration from India's ancient culture and values. Mention four features of that party.

[Board Term–II, Delhi Set-I, 2013]

Ans. 'Bharatiya Janata Party' (BJP) gets inspiration from India's ancient culture and values.

Four important features :

- Cultural nationalism or 'Hindutva' is an important element in its conception of Indian Nationhood and politics.
- The party wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.
- A uniform civil code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion and ban on religious conversions.
- Its support base increased substantially in the 1990s.

$1 + 4 = 5$ CBSE Marking Scheme, 2013]



TOPIC-4

Challenges Faced By Political Parties and its Reforms

Quick Review

- **Lack of internal democracy within parties**
 - Power concentrated in the hands of few.
 - No organizational meetings. No keeping of membership register.
 - No internal, regular elections.
 - Ordinary members do not have access to information, cannot influence decisions.
 - Disagreement with the leader leads to ouster from the party.
- **Dynastic succession**
 - Leaders on top have unfair advantage to favour people close to them or family members.
 - Top positions controlled by family members in most parties.
 - Bad for democracy.
 - Tendency seen all over the world, even in the older democracies.
- **Money and muscle power**
 - During elections this power is very visible.
 - Candidates who can raise money are nominated.
 - Rich people and companies who give funds have influence on policies.
- **Parties do not offer a meaningful choice to the voters.**
- There is not much difference in ideology among parties. Example: Labour Party and Conservative Party of Britain. They only differ on details of implementation rather than fundamental principles.
 - In India also there is not much difference among parties on economic issues.
- **Reforms :**
- As political parties face these challenges, there is a growing need to reform the system. Some of the reform measures taken by the government are: Anti-defection law, affidavit requirement and organizational meetings for political parties.
- **Some suggestions made to reform political parties and its leaders :**
 - A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties. It should be made compulsory for political parties to maintain a register of its members, follow its own constitution and hold open elections to the highest posts.
 - It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates.
 - There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money, petrol, paper, telephone, etc., to support their election expenses.

Know the Terms

- **Defection :** Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected (to a legislative body) to a different party.
- **Affidavit :** A signed document submitted to an officer where a person makes a sworn statement regarding giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him.
- **Election Commission :** An independent multi-member body which is constituted for the superintendence, direction and conduct of election.

Know the Links

- www.elections.in/political.../differences-between-regional-and-national-p...
- www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/the-major-regional



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

Q. 1. If all the decisions of a political party are made by a single family and all other members are neglected, then what challenge is being faced by that party? [Board Term-II, 2015]

Ans. Challenge of dynastic succession. 1

Q. 2. Why do political parties involve partisanship? [Board Term-II, O.D. Set-I, 2015]

Ans. Because the parties are a part of the society and thus they involve partisanship. 1

Q. 3. An _____ is a signed document submitted to an officer, where a person makes a sworn statement regarding her personal information.

Ans. Affidavit. 1



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

Q. 1. Which three challenges do you feel are being faced by political parties in India? Give your opinion. [Board Term-II, Outside Delhi Set-I, 2016]

Ans. The three challenges faced by political parties in India are :

- (i) Lack of internal democracy.
- (ii) Challenge of dynastic succession
- (iii) Growing role of money and muscle power.
- (iv) Often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

Q. 2. How do money and muscle power play an important role in elections? Explain.

[Board Term-II, O.D. Set-II, 2015]

Ans. Money and muscle power play an important role in elections because :

- (i) Role of money and muscle power in parties especially during elections is growing.
- (ii) Parties tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money.
- (iii) Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.
- (iv) In some cases, parties support criminals who can win election.
- (v) Democrats all over the world are worried over the increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

Q. 3. What is meant by 'defection' in democracy? Explain. [Board Term-II, Set-2027, 2014]

Ans. (i) Defection in politics means moving of a person from one party to another party for some personal benefit. It means changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party..

(ii) It happens when a legislature, after having been elected from a particular party leaves it and joins in other party.

(iii) The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLA's and MP's from changing parties. Now the law says that if any MLA and MP changes parties, he or she will lose seat in the legislature.

(iv) The new law has brought defection down and has made dissent even more difficult.

(Any three) [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] $1 \times 3 = 3$

Q. 4. "Serious efforts were made by the legal organizations to reform political parties in India." Support the statement.

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, II, III, 2015]

Ans. Efforts made by the legal organizations to reform political parties in India :

- (i) To check defection, the Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLA's and MPS's from changing parties.
- (ii) The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminal, by making it mandatory to produce an affidavit giving details of property and criminal cases pending.
- (iii) The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational election and file their income tax returns.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 3

Q. 5. Suggest some reforms to strengthen parties so that they perform their functions well.

OR

"The elimination of flows of political parties seems difficult but not impossible." Justify the statement with suggestions.

Ans. (i) A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.

(ii) It should be mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about 1/3rd to the women candidates.

(iii) There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money to support the election expenses. 3



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

- Q. 1. Explain any four problem areas in the working of political parties.

[Board Term-II, Set-2081, 2012]

OR

Explain how political parties are still in the grip of some serious challenges.

- Ans. (i) Lack of internal democracy:** The first challenge is lack of internal democracy within parties. Concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.
- (ii) Dynastic succession:** Favour people close to them or even their family members. In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family.
- (iii) Money and muscle power:** The third challenge is about growing role of money and muscle power in parties, especially during elections.
- (iv) Meaningful choice:** The fourth challenge is that very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters.

$1\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 5$ [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

- Q. 2. Why is there a lack of internal democracy within the political parties in India? Explain with examples.

[Board Term-II, Set-2027, 2012]

- Ans. There are various reasons for lack of democracy within the political parties in India :**
- (i)** Concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.
- (ii)** Details of membership are not registered in the parties.
- (iii)** No organizational meetings.
- (iv)** No internal elections for membership within the party.
- (v)** Top leaders have unanimous power of decision-making.

$1 \times 5 = 5$ [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

- Q. 3. Examine any two institutional amendments made by different institutions to reform political and their leaders.

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-III, 2016]

OR

- Elucidate some of the recent efforts taken in our country to reform political parties and its leaders.

[Board Term II, SQP, 2016]

- Ans. (i)** The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLA's and MP's from changing parties. This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in defection in order to become ministers or for cash rewards. Now, if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature.

- (ii)** The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. 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. The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. But there is no system of check if the information given by the candidates is true.

- (iii)** The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational elections and file their income tax returns.

- (iv)** The parties have started doing so but sometimes it is mere formality. It is not clear if this step has led to greater internal democracy in political parties.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] $1\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 5$

- Q. 4. Suggest and explain any five measures to reform political parties.

[Board Term-II, Outside Delhi Set-II, 2016]

OR

- Suggest any five effective measures to reform political parties.

[Board Term-II, 2015, Outside Delhi Set-I, 2012]

Ans. Effective measures to reform political parties are :

- (i)** A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.
- (ii)** It should be made compulsory for political parties to maintain a register of its members.
- (iii)** It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets; about 1/3rd to its women candidates.
- (iv)** There should be a quota for women in the decision making bodies of the party.
- (v)** There should be state funding of elections.
- (vi)** The government should give parties money to support their election expenses in kind for example petrol, paper, telephone, etc., or in cash.
- (vii)** Vote casting should be made compulsory in each election.
- (viii)** Data regarding caste and religion, OBC, SC, ST should not be utilized during election period in any form.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]



High Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) Questions

Q. 1. "Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy". Analyse the statement with examples.

[Board Term-II, Outside Delhi Set-I, II, III, 2016]

OR

Why can't modern democracies exist without the political parties? Explain any four reasons.

[Board Term-II, 2015, Foreign Set-14/B1 2011]

Ans. "Political parties are necessary condition for a democracy" because :

- (i) Without political parties, democracies cannot exist.
- (ii) If we do not have political parties; in such a situation every candidate in elections will be independent.
- (iii) No one will be able to make any promises to the people about any major policy changes.
- (iv) The government may be formed but its utility will remain uncertain.
- (v) Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency for what they do in their locality.
- (vi) But no one will be responsible for how the country will run.
- (vii) The role of opposition party in a democracy necessitates the existence of political parties.
- (viii) As societies become large and complex they also need some agencies to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government, that's why political parties are needed.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

Q. 2. "Political parties play a major role in democracy." Explain any five points to justify this statement.

[Board Term-II, Set-2080, 2012]

OR

"Political parties are rightly called the government in disguise." Justify the statement in reference to democratic politics by giving five arguments.

[Board Term-II, Set-2022, 2012]

Ans. The political parties play an important role in democracy as :

- (i) Parties contest elections: In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by political parties.
- (ii) Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them.
- (iii) Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
- (iv) Parties shape public opinions. They raise and highlight issues.
- (v) Form and run governments.

(vi) Role of opposition. Opposition role is important in democracy as it voices different views and criticizes government for its failures or wrong policies.

(vii) Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

Q. 3. Differentiate between national and regional parties. Write any four points.

[Board Term-II, Set-68001, 2012]

Ans.

S.No.	National Parties	Regional Parties
(i)	A party that secures at least 6% of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized as a national party.	A party that secures at least 6% 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 or regional party.
(ii)	National parties will have influence in more than three states. For example: INC, BJP, BSP, CPI-M, CPI and NCP.	Regional parties will have influence in three states. For example: Samajwadi Party, Samata Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, DMK, AIADMK.

$2\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} = 5$

Q. 4. "Lack of internal democracy within parties is the major challenge to political parties all over the world." Analyse the statement.

[Board Term II SQP 2016 ; Board Term-II, 2015,]

OR

In what way lack of internal democracy is seen in the political parties?

Ans. All over the world, there is a tendency of political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.

- (i) Parties do not keep membership register.
- (ii) They do not regularly hold organisational meetings.
- (iii) They do not conduct interval elections regularly.
- (iv) Ordinary members of the party do not have sufficient information as to what happens inside the party.
- (v) As a result, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party. $1 \times 5 = 5$

Q. 5. “Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the political parties”. Analyse the statement. [Board Term-II, O.D. Set-I, 2015]

Ans. Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the political parties because :

- (i) Most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning.
- (ii) There are few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party.
- (iii) In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family.
- (iv) This practice is unfair to other members of that party and is also bad for a democracy.
- (v) People who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy position of power.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

Q. 6. “All over the world, people express their dissatisfaction with the failure of political parties to perform their functions well.” Analyse the statement with arguments.

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-II, 2016]

Ans. Popular dissatisfaction and criticism : It has focused on four areas in the working of political parties, need to face and overcome these challenges in order to remain effective instruments of democracy:

- (i) Lack of internal democracy within parties.
- (ii) Dynastic succession. Growing role of money and muscle power in parties.
- (iii) There is not a meaningful choice to the voters.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 2+3



Value Based Questions

Q. 1. Mention the necessary conditions required by party to be recognized as a national party.

Ans. Necessary conditions for national parties :

- (i) Secure at least 6% of total votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four states.
- (ii) Should win at least four seats in the Lok Sabha.
- (iii) They should have influence in more than three seats.

Example: INC, BJP, CPI (M), CPI, NCP and BSP.

1×3=3

Q. 2. “No party system is ideal for all countries and all situations.” Justify the statement with arguments. [Board Term-II, Foreign Set-III, 2016]

Ans. No party system is ideal for all countries and all situations:

- (i) Party system is not something, any country can choose.
- (ii) It evolves over a long time depending on the nature of the society.
- (iii) Its social and regional division, its history of policies and its system of elections.
- (iv) Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances.

(Any three) 1×3=3

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]