

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. What was the change that occurred with time in the voting system?

Ans. Initially each voter was given a blank ballot paper to drop into the box, they wanted to vote for whereas now Electronic Voting Machines are there, the voter had to press the button according to the choice of the voter, containing the name of the candidate and symbol of political party.

Q.2. Why was democracy chosen in India?

Ans. During independence of India, the situations were very critical. Even then, the leaders of India chose democracy because they began to build the dream of a democratic nation from the time of their freedom struggle. They also knew that democracy could be a way to bring peace to the nation.

Q.3. Differentiate between one party dominance and one party system.

Ans. One party dominance refers to the representation on behalf of popular consensus along with free and fair elections i.e., Congress in India. Whereas, one party system refers representation based on malpractices, fraud, etc. to ensure winning of a particular party.

Q.4. What was the role played by the opposition parties in the era of one party dominance?

Ans. Opposition parties were able to get a token representation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies during the era of Congress Party, but they played a vital role in maintaining the democratic character of the system. These parties offered a constant criticism of the Congress party and kept democratic political alternative alive. These parties gave the leaders to the country, who played a crucial role in shaping India.

Q.5. Describe the origin of Socialist Party.

Ans. The roots of the Socialist Party can be traced back to the mass movement stage of the Indian National Congress in the pre-independence era. The Congress Socialist Party (CSP) was formed within the Congress in 1934 by a group of leaders like Lohia, Narendra Dev, who wanted a more radical and egalitarian Congress. In 1948, the Congress amended its party constitution, forced the socialists to form a separate Socialist Party. The socialists believed in the ideology of democratic socialism. They condemned the Congress for the pro-capitalists and pro-landlords and for ignoring the workers and the peasants. The Socialist Party went through many splits and reunions leading to the formation of many socialist parties. These included Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, Jayaprakash Narayan. S.M. Joshi were among the leaders of the socialist parties.

Q.6. Explain the major difference between the ideologies of the Congress and Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Ans. The major difference between their ideologies was that Bharatiya Jana Sangh emphasised on one country, one culture, one nation, i.e., a Hindu nation or Hindutva, whereas Congress formed ideological and social coalitions accommodating social diversities.

Q.7. What do you understand by factions in a coalition?

Ans. The congress had a nature of coalition. If a group was not happy with the position of the party or with its share of power, it would remain inside the party and fight the other groups rather than leaving the party and becoming an opposition. These groups inside a party are called factions.

Q.8. Write a brief note on the emergence of 'Swatantra Party'.

Ans. Swatantra party was formed in August 1959 after the Nagpur resolution of the Congress which called for land ceilings, taking over of food grain trade by the state and the adoption of cooperative farming. The party was led by old Congress men like Raja Gopalachari, K.M. Munshi, N.G. Ranga and Minoo Masani.

Q.9. How did opposition parties emerge in India? What was their importance?

Ans. Some of the diverse opposition parties had come into existence before the first general elections in 1952 as non-Congress parties. These parties succeeded to gain only a token of representation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

- a. These parties maintained a democratic character of the system.
- b. These offered a criticism to the policies based on the principles to keep ruling party under check.
- c. They changed the balance of power within the congress.
- d. These parties prevented the resentment with the system from turning antidemocratic.
- e. These parties groomed the leaders also to play a crucial role in shaping the country. In the early years, there was a lot of respect between the leaders of Congress and opposition parties', i.e., interim government included even opposition leaders like Dr. Ambedkar, Jayaprakash Narayan, and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee into the Cabinet.

Q.10. What is meant by 'one party dominance' in the Indian context?

Ans. 'One party dominance' in the Indian context means the dominance of the Congress party in the Indian politics. This domination of Congress party was based on popular consensus.

— The reason for a dominant one party system was identified with the freedom struggle for building national unity and solidarity. — Another reason for one party dominance

was the popular appeal of charismatic leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, Indira Gandhi, etc.

Q.11. How did India's first general elections become a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world?

Ans. They became the landmark because these elections were competitive among various parties. The participation of people was also encouraging. The results were declared in a very fair manner, even to be accepted by the losing party in a generous manner. This experiment by India proved the critics' wrong, who thought holding elections in a new independent country would result in a disastrous consequences.

Q.12. Which characteristics made the Congress an ideological coalition during the freedom movement of India?

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. Congress as an ideological Coalition Factors:

- (i) Different groups merged their identity within the Congress. Very often they continued to exist within the Congress as groups and individuals holding different beliefs.
- (ii) It accommodated the revolutionary and pacifist, conservative and radical, extremists and moderates as well as the right, left and all shades of the centre. It was a platform for numerous groups.

Q.13. How did the coalition-like character of the Congress Party gives it an unusual strength?

[CBSE Delhi 2016, CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. It gave the Congress party unusual strength because:

- (i) A coalition tries to accommodate all those who join it. Therefore, it has to strike a balance on almost all issues thereby leading to compromise and inclusiveness. The Congress was able to accommodate variety of views and thereby the opposition could not find major issues to attack Congress with.
- (ii) There is a greater tolerance of internal differences and ambitions of various groups and leaders in a coalition. The Congress was able to do this during the freedom struggle and continued after independence. Thereby leaders would not leave the Congress and be accommodated within it.

Q.14. When and why was the electronic voting machine used in India for the first time?

Ans. The electronic voting machine was used in India in 1990 for the first time while counting for more accuracy and fair dealing. It helps to check Booth capturing and other malpractices also.

Q.15. Did the prevalence of a 'one party dominant system' affect adversely the democratic nature of India politics?

Ans. No, the prevalence of one party dominance system did not adversely affect the democratic nature of Indian politics because the key role of Congress in the freedom struggle gave it a head start over others. The congress accommodated diversified interests, religion, beliefs and aspirations to strengthen democracy. Despite being taken place of free and fair elections, Congress won elections in the same manner again and again. Congress party was consisted of various factions inside itself, based on ideological considerations. Hence, on the basis of above mentioned criterion, it can be concluded that Congress strengthened ideals of democracy and held unity and integrity of the country.

Q.16. If Bharatiya Jana Sangh of the Communist Party of India had formed the government after the first election, in which respects would the policies of the government have been different? Specify three differences each for both the parties.

Ans. Communist Party of India:

— It would have worked for proportional representation in the government. — This party would have followed communist ideology in various policies. — It must have emphasised on a control over electronic mass media by an autonomous body or corporation.

Bharatiya Jana Sangh:

— It would have replaced the secular concept by the ideology of one country, one culture and one nation. — Indian culture and traditions would have been given a preference as this party opposed the granting of concessions to religious and cultural minorities. — It focused on the re-unity of India and Pakistan under the concept of Akhand Bharat.

Q.17. State any two ideologies of the Swatantra Party.

Ans. The Swatantra Party was founded by Senior Congress leader C. Rajagopalachari in August 1959.

(i) The party believed that prosperity could come only through individual freedom.

(ii) This party was against land ceilings in agriculture and opposed to cooperative farming.

Q.18. Bring out three differences each between Socialist Parties and the Communist Parties and between Bharatiya Jana Sangh and Swatantra Party.

Ans. Difference between Socialist Parties and Communist Party

Socialist Parties	Communist Parties
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(1) These parties believed in the ideology of democratic socialism	(1) This party believed in communism.
(2) Socialist party criticised capitalism and for establishment of socialistic state.	(2) Communist party was primarily secular, modern, and also authoritarian. It opposes capitalism.
(3) Socialist party wanted more radical and egalitarian nature of Congress. Believe in non-violence.	(3) Communist party also wanted radical nature of Congress but went through violence to achieve its aims.

Bharatiya Jana Sangh	Swatantra Party
(1) It emphasised on the ideology of one country, one culture and one nation.	(1) It emphasised on the free economy and less involvement of government in controlling the economy.
(2) This called for a re-unity of India and Pakistan in Akhand Bharat.	(2) It was critical to policy of nonalignment and favoured to have closer relations with the USA.
(3) It was a consistent advocate of India to develop nuclear weapons.	(3) This party criticised centralised planning nationalisation and one public sector.

Q.19. What would you consider as the main differences between Mexico and India under one party dominance?

Ans. There was a difference between one party dominance in India and Mexico. In Mexico, this was a one party system only. In India, the Congress party dominated on behalf of popular consensus but institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) ruled on behalf of perfect dictatorship. In India, free and fair elections took place, where the losing of election was also fair but in Mexico, elections were based on malpractices, dominated by PRI.

Q.20. Distinguish between the economic ideologies of the Congress Party and the Swatantra Party formed in 1959.

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. The differences in economic policy between the Congress and Swatantra Party were:

(i) The Congress wanted to seize land as per eminent domain and redistribute land to landless people. The Swatantra Party was not in favour of such a radical approach to land reforms.

(ii) The Congress relied on State owned enterprises for economic growth while Swatantra Party relied on private enterprises for economic growth.

(iii) The Congress began a system of licence raj and increased intervention of government in private enterprises while the Swatantra party wanted little government intervention in private enterprises.