

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. Mention an important event that took place in the 1989.

Ans. Elections in India took place in 1989, in which the Congress lost with 197 seats. It was a major defeat for Congress.

Q.2. Highlight the crucial issues over which broad consensus have emerged amongst different political parties in India.

[Sample Question Paper 2016]

Ans. (i) Agreement on new economic policies.

(ii) Acceptance of the political and social claims of the backward castes.

(iii) Acceptance of the role of that state level parties in governance of the country.

(iv) Emphasis on pragmatic considerations rather than ideological positions and political alliances without ideological agreement.

Q.3. What was the agreement regarding the new economic policy between various parties?

Ans. India's New Economic Policy was launched by the then Prime Minister, Narsimha Rao and Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. They introduced structural changes in the economy towards a liberalised and open economy.

Q.4. Mention any four reasons which gave rise to the idea of coalition government in India.

Ans. The reasons that gave rise to the idea of coalition government in India are as follows :-

- i. None of the parties got majority in the election to form a government.
- ii. In a coalition government, all the political parties could maintain their identity.
- iii. None of the political parties wanted to hold elections before the prescribed period.
- iv. It also helped in distancing a powerful party to form a government.

Q.5. "In the new era of coalition politics, political parties are not aligning or realigning on the basis of ideology". What arguments would you put forward to support or oppose this statement?

[NCERT]

Ans. In the new era of coalition politics, there is an emphasis on power grabbing rather than ideological positions. The parties are willing to compromise with their ideological positions to enjoy and share power. They consider ideological hardening to be too idealistic in nature and prefer to be more pragmatic in nature.

Q.6. 'In spite of the decline of Congress dominance, the Congress party continues to influence politics in the country'. Do you agree? Give reasons.

[NCERT]

Ans. Congress got defeated in the elections of 1989, which marked an end of their dominance over Indian Political System but Congress continued to influence politics in the country. Congress improved their performance and came to power after mid-term elections in 1991. They also supported the United Front government. Congress remained an important partner in a non-BJP alliance. It continued to win elections in multiple States in India and won the 2004 and 2009 General elections. It has also continued to be the major opposition party when not in power.

Q.7. In what way do the coalition governments prove to be more democratic than the one-party governments?

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. Coalition governments prove to be more democratic from the one-party governments in many ways:

- i. It eliminates the fear of one-party dictatorship.
- ii. Different groups and regions get due representation in the government.
- iii. Due to coalition government, many parties come together on different issues.
- iv. Coalition government keeps in view the regional aspirations and interests.

Q.8. State the main issues in Indian politics in the period after 1989. What different configurations of political parties these differences lead to?

Ans. In the decades of 80s, the country witnessed many main developments which had a long lasting impact on politics. They are as follows –

- i. End of Congress system
- ii. Mandal issues
- iii. New Economic Reforms
- iv. Babri Masjid Issues

Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1989 elections, which led to the defeat of Congress and gave rise to emergence of the era of 'Multi-Party System' as no single party secured majority in Lok Sabha elections since 1989. It also led to an era of coalition government, where regional parties played an important role forming a ruling alliance. There have been nine governments at the centre since 1989, either by minority

government supported by other parties or coalition government. The 90s also saw the emergence of powerful parties to represent Dalits and backward classes and regional assertions as well.

Q. 9. What were the important challenges of the 1990s?

Ans. After the assassination of Indira Gandhi, Congress won the elections in 1984. Rajiv Gandhi became the next Prime Minister. During the end of 1980s, there were many major changes that could be seen in politics that affected the later period.

- i. **Decline of Congress:** Congress Party got massive victory in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1984. But the 1989 elections was the period of defeat, in which the Congress won only 197 seats. This marked the end of the 'Congress system'. Although the Congress improved its performance, in 1991 Lok Sabha it lost the kind of centrality it had earlier enjoyed. Thus, the elections of 1989 marked the beginning of coalition era. In 1989, both the BJP and the left supported the National Front Government.
- ii. **Anti Mandal protest:** The new government of the National Front implemented the Mandal Commission Report in 1990. These recommendations mentioned the reservation of backward classes in the educational institutions and employment of the Central government. Due to which there were many protests in several parts of India.
- iii. **New economic changes:** India's New Economic Policy was launched in 1991. The economic changes first became visible in 1991 and radically changed the direction that Indian Economy had pursued since independence towards liberalised and open country.

Q.10. Trace the emergence of BJP as a significant force in post-Emergency politics.

[NCERT]

Ans. The major trends in the electoral performance of BJP since 1989 can be traced as follows:

- i. In the elections of 1989, the National front under V.P. Singh came to power supported by left front and BJP from outside because they wanted to keep the Congress out of power. Due to Mandal Commission Report and implementation of its recommendations. National Front forced BJP to reconsider its support and BJP finally withdrew it. Thus, in 1990, the rule of National Front came to an end.
- ii. In 1996, BJP minority government was formed for a short period. In June 1996, BJP failed to get majority support in the vote of confidence and thus collapsed.
- iii. From March 1998 to October 1999, BJP and others formed alliances, NDA, under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The regional Parties demanded more share in the government to extend their support.

Q.11. “After the elections in 1989, an era of coalitions started in which political parties are not aligning or realigning on the basis of ideologies.” Explain the statement.

[Sample Question Paper 2015]

Ans. We observe that since 1989, parties with difference in ideologies join in alliance because they focus on power sharing. Such alliances are NDA and UPA, Popular United Front consisting of Akali Dal, CPI, CPI (M), SSP, Republican Party and Bhartiya Jansangh in Punjab (assembly election 1967), Grand Alliance of 1971's general election, Alliance of Congress with CPI, etc.

Q.12. Explain the issues which received consensus from most parties in India.

Ans. In the midst of severe competition and many conflicts, a consensus appears to have emerged among most parties. This consensus consists of four elements:

- i. Agreement on new economic policies – While many groups are opposed to the new economic policies, most political parties are in support of the new economic policies. Most parties believed that these policies would lead the country to prosperity and a status of economic power in the world.
- ii. Acceptance of the role of state level parties in governance in the country – The distinctions between state level and national level have played a central role in the country's politics of last twenty years or so.
- iii. Emphasis on pragmatic considerations rather than ideological positions and political alliances without ideological agreement.
- iv. Acceptance of political and social claims of the backward castes – Political parties have recognised the social and political claims of the backward castes need to be accepted. As a result, all political parties now support reservation of seats for the 'backward classes in education and employment. Political parties are also willing to ensure that the OBCs get adequate share of power. Coalition politics has shifted the focus of political parties from ideological differences to power sharing arrangements. Thus, most parties of the NDA did not agree with the 'Hindutva' ideology of the BJP. Yet they came together to form a government and remained in power for the complete term.

Q.13. In 2014 elections, people have voted for a stable government at the Centre. Do you think that the era of coalition has ended? Support your answer with suitable arguments.

[CBSE Delhi 2015]

Ans. If Yes:

- People have given absolute majority to one party, i.e., B.J.P.
- People were fed up with the previous experience of coalition governments.
- Regional parties like S.P., B.S.P., DMK, etc. have been wiped out.

- Many important decision could not be taken due to varying interests of coalition parties.

If No:

- Regional parties still have relevance and they are ruling in different states.
- Congress and B.J.P., both are trying continuously to woo the regional parties in their favour.
- The present government still depends and needs the support of different regional parties to get the bills passed in the Parliament.
- At present, the Congress party is trying to unite the opposition parties/regional parties against the ruling party with the purpose to regain power.

(Any three points in each case)