

Political Parties

- Facts at Your Fingertips
- Subjective Topicwise Question Bank

- NCERT Exercise
- Competency Based Questions

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- **A Political Party** is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
- **Components of a political party** are—(i) The leaders, (ii) Active members and (iii) the Followers.
- **Functions of Political Parties:**
 - **Contesting Elections.** Political parties contest elections.
 - **Policies.** Political parties put forward different policies and programmes so that the voters can choose from them. The policies and programmes of the Ruling Party are expected to be followed by the government.
 - **Making Laws.** Political parties play a decisive role in making laws for the country.
 - **Formation of Government.** Political parties form and run governments. The executive body is formed by people from the ruling party.
 - **Playing Opposition.** A party which does not get majority or come under the majority coalition, needs to play the role of opposition.
 - **Shaping Public Opinion.** Political parties shape public opinion. They do so by raising and highlighting issues in the legislature and in the media.

- **Providing Access to Government Machinery.** Political parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by the government.

➡ There are three kinds of party systems:

- One-party system.** In some countries only one party is allowed to control and run the government. *For example*, in China only the Communist Party is allowed to rule.
- Two-party system.** In this system, several parties may exist, contest the elections and win a few seats in the national legislatures. But only two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority of seats to form the government. *For example*, The USA and the UK.
- Multi-party system.** In this system, the government is formed by various parties coming together in a coalition. 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.

For example, in India there were three major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections—the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the

Left Front. This system on one hand leads to political instability but at the same time, allows for a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

- ➡ A party that secures atleast 6% of the total votes polled in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly Elections in four States and wins atleast four seats in the Lok Sabha, is recognised as a '**National party**'.
- A party, that secures atleast 6 per cent of the total votes polled in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State and wins atleast two seats, is recognised as a '**State party**'.

➡ **Four national parties and five regional parties of India:**

National Parties. All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Communist Party of India (CPI), Indian National Congress (INC), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

Regional Parties. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Akali Dal (Punjab); DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) (Tamil Nadu); RJD (Rashtriya Janata Dal) (Bihar); Shiv Sena (Maharashtra).

- ➡ **Partisanship.** A partisan is a person who is strongly committed to a party, group or faction. As parties (political) are about a part of the society, they involve 'partisanship'.
- ➡ **Role of an opposition party.** Opposition parties mobilise opposition to the government. It puts forward its own views in Parliament and State Assemblies and criticizes the government for its failures. By doing this, it keeps a check on the ruling party.
- ➡ **Source of inspiration of Bharatiya Janata Party.** The source of inspiration of Bharatiya Janata Party is the ancient Indian culture and values. Cultural nationalism (Hindutva) is an important element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.
- Source of inspiration of Bahujan Samaj Party.** The Bahujan Samaj Party draws inspiration from the ideas and teachings of Sahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker and Babasaheb Ambedkar. It stands for the interest and welfare of the dalits and other oppressed people.

Ideology of Indian National Congress. Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian National Congress sought to build a modern secular democratic republic in India. The party propagates secularism and welfare of the weaker sections and minorities of society. It supports new economic reforms but with a human face.

➡ **Efforts to reform political parties are:**

- (i) The Constitution has been amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. Now if any elected MLA or MP changes his party, he/she will lose his/her seat in the Legislative Assembly or Parliament. This amended law has helped to bring down the number of defections.
 - (ii) The Supreme Court has passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now it has become mandatory for every candidate, who contests election, to file an affidavit giving details of his assets and criminal cases pending against him. This has helped in making this information available to the public.
 - (iii) The Election Commission has passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their Income-tax Returns.
 - ➡ **Role of money and muscle power grows during elections.** Since focus of the parties is on winning the elections, they use short-cuts to win the elections. They nominate candidates who have or can raise lot of money. In some cases, parties support criminals who can win elections. Thus the role of rich people and big companies in the democratic process has been a cause of worry.
 - ➡ **Dynastic succession.** Most political parties do not practise open and transparent procedures for their functioning. So there are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party. Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage as they favour people close to them or even their family members.
- In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of a particular family, which is unfair to other members of the party, and is bad for democracy.

NCERT Exercise

1. State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy. (2015 Delhi)

Or, Why do we need political parties? (2014 Delhi)

Ans. To fill political offices and exercise political power, political parties perform a series of functions, which are the following:

- (i) **Parties contest elections.** Elections are fought mainly among candidates put up by political parties.
In some countries like the USA, members and supporters of a party choose its candidates. In India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.
- (ii) **Parties put forward different policies and programmes.** Political parties in a democracy group together similar opinions to provide a direction in which government policies can be formulated.
- (iii) **Parties make laws for a country.** Laws are debated and passed in the legislature. Since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the party leadership than personal opinions.
- (iv) **Parties that lose elections play the role of the opposition.** Opposition parties voice their views by criticising government for its failure or wrong policies.
- (v) **Parties shape public opinion.** They raise and highlight issues and resolve people's problems. Many pressure groups are the extensions of political parties.
- (vi) **Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes.** For an ordinary citizen it is easy to approach a local party leader than a government officer. Parties have to be responsive to people's needs and demands or else people can reject them in the next elections.
- (vii) A government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the ruling party.

2. What are the various challenges faced by political parties?

Or, What challenges are needed to be faced and overcome by political parties in order to remain effective instruments of democracy?

(2012 Outside Delhi, 2016 Delhi)

Ans. Since parties are the most visible face in a democracy, people blame them for whatever is wrong with the working of democracy.

There are four major areas where the working of political parties faces challenge:

- (i) **Lack of internal democracy.** There is concentration of power in one or a few leaders at the top.
Parties do not hold organisational meetings and do not conduct internal elections regularly. More than loyalty to party principles and policies, it is personal loyalty which becomes more important.
- (ii) **Dynastic succession.** In many parties, top positions are always held by members of one family.
Most political parties do not practice transparent and open procedures for their functioning and it is very difficult for an ordinary worker to rise to the top. This is bad for democracy, since people who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power.
- (iii) **Money and muscle power.** Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts to win elections. They nominate candidates who have or can raise money and thus are able to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.
- (iv) **No meaningful choice.** There has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties. They agree more on fundamental aspects, but differ only in details, on how policies are to be framed and implemented. Sometimes people cannot even elect different leaders as the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another.

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

(2011 Delhi, 2015 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Some of the suggestions made to reform the political parties:

- (i) Law to regulate the internal affairs of political parties like maintaining a register of its members, to follow its own constitution, to have independent authority, to act as judge in case of party dispute, to hold open elections to the highest post.
- (ii) It should be mandatory for political parties to give one-third tickets to women candidates. Also there should be quota for women on the decision-making bodies of the party.

(iii) There should be state funding of elections. The government should give money to parties to support their election expenses in kind (petrol, paper, telephone, etc.) or in cash on the basis of votes secured by the party in the previous election.

— These suggestions have not been accepted by the political parties so far but if accepted could lead to improvements. Although, over-regulation could be counter-productive and could force the parties to find ways to evade the laws.

— **There are two other ways to reform political parties:**

(1) People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity in media, agitations etc.

(2) Citizens can reform politics, if they take part directly and join political parties.

4. What is a political party? (2015 Delhi)

Ans. Political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and to hold power in the government. They agree on some policies to promote collective good. They seek to implement those policies by winning popular support through elections. Thus political parties tend to fill political offices and exercise political power.

5. What are the characteristics of a political party?

Ans. Characteristics of a political party:

(i) Political parties are organised bodies which contest elections to win popular support. They seek to exercise government power by contesting and winning elections.

(ii) Political parties reflect fundamental political divisions in a society. They are essential for the smooth functioning of a democracy.

(iii) They have certain policies and programmes which they implement for the collective good of society.

(iv) They play an important role in law-making for the people of the country and also express public opinion.

Related Concept

Political parties are collective entities that organize competitions for political offices. The members of a political party contest elections under a shared label. In other words, a political party can be thought of as just the group of candidates who run for office under a party label.

6. A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government is called a

Ans. A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government is called a **Political Party**.

7. Match List I (organisations and struggles) with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I	List II
1. Congress Party	A. National Democratic Alliance
2. Bharatiya Janata Party	B. State party
3. Communist Party of India (Marxist)	C. United Progressive Alliance
4. Telugu Desam Party	D. Left Front

	1	2	3	4
(a)	C	A	B	D
(b)	C	D	A	B
(c)	C	A	D	B
(d)	D	C	A	B

Ans. (c)

8. Who among the following is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party?

- A. Kanshi Ram B. Sahu Maharaj
C. B.R. Ambedkar D. Jotiba Phule

Ans. A

9. What is the guiding philosophy of the Bharatiya Janata Party?

- A. Bahujan Samaj
B. Revolutionary democracy
C. Integral humanism
D. Modernity

Ans. C

10. Consider the following statements on parties:

- A. Political parties do not enjoy much trust among the people.
B. Parties are often rocked by scandals involving top party leaders.
C. Parties are not necessary to run governments.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) A, B and C (b) A and B
(c) B and C (d) A and C

Ans. (b)

Related Concept

Parties are the pillars of democracy. popular leaders are elected as rulers - leaders are elected to serve the people - those who wanted to be elected they must serve better - parties reflect fundamental political divisions in a society.

11. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

Muhammad Yunus is a famous economist of Bangladesh. He received several international honours for his efforts to promote economic and social development for the benefit of the poor. He and the Grameen Bank he started, jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize for 2006. In February 2007, he decided to launch a political party and contest in the parliamentary elections. His objective was to foster proper leadership, good governance and build a new Bangladesh. He felt that only a political party different from the traditional ones would bring about new political culture. His party would be democratic from the grassroots level. The launching of the new party, called Nagarik Shakti (Citizens' Power) has caused a stir among the Bangladeshis. While many welcomed his decision, some did not like it. "Now I think Bangladesh will have a chance to choose between good and bad and eventually have a good government," said Shahedul Islam, a government official. "That government, we hope, would not only keep itself away from corruption but also make fighting corruption and black money a top priority."

But leaders of traditional political parties who dominated the country's politics for decades were apprehensive. "There was no debate (over him) winning the Nobel but politics is different—very challenging and often controversial," said a senior leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Some others were highly critical. They asked why he was rushing into politics. "Is he being planted in politics by mentors from outside the country," asked one political observer.

Do you think Yunus made a right decision to float a new political party?

Do you agree with the statements and fears expressed by various people? How do you want this new party organised to make it different from other parties? If you were the one to begin this political party, how would you defend it?

Ans. Yes, Yunus made a right decision in floating a new political party.

I agree with the views expressed by Shahedul Islam, a government official. The fears expressed by the leaders of traditional political parties, who dominate the country's politics, shows their cause for worry as their dominance will be weakened. They are apprehensive about Yunus joining politics as his new party, Nagarik Shakti, has caused a stir among the people.

Since the objective of this new party is to foster

proper leadership, good governance and build a new Bangladesh and to achieve it, it would have to be democratic from the grassroots level. It would have to strive for internal democracy where an ordinary member of the party has the means to influence the decisions of the party.

If I were to begin this political party, I would defend it by addressing it as better politics against the problem of bad politics. It would be a people's movement, a fight against corruption. It would bring about a new political culture as the party would be democratic from the grassroot level. The quality of democracy depends on the degree of public participation. By launching the party, people will have a meaningful choice and a chance to choose between good and bad government.



Remember!! You will achieve success only by taking small steps. Keep it up.....



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-1

Why do we need Political Parties ?

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I) (Easy)

(1 Mark)

1. What is meant by a political party?

(2015 Delhi, 2015 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and to hold power in the government. They agree on some policies to promote collective good. They seek to implement those policies by winning popular support through elections. Thus political parties tend to fill political offices and exercise political power.

2. Write name of the **three** main components of a political party.

(2011 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Main components of a political party:

- The leaders;
- The active members; and
- The followers.

3. Why do political parties involve partisanship?

(2016 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Partisanship is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue. Parties reflect fundamental political divisions in a

society. Parties are a part of the society and they involve partisanship.

4. Suggest any one way to make political parties more responsive to the people's needs and demands. (2020 Series: JBB/3)

Ans. Ways to make political parties more responsive to the people's needs and demands:

- (i) By electing only those political parties who work for the welfare of the people.
- (ii) To evolve mechanisms for negotiating differences.
- (iii) Citizens should exert pressure on political parties for making them responsible through active participation in the debates, surveys and conferences etc.

5. Suggest any one way to promote the public participation in the Political Parties for enhancing the quality of democracy. (2020 Series: JBB/3)

Ans. (i) Political parties should give representations to accommodate different groups.
(ii) To frame laws and policies for welfare of the people. (any one)

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II) (Average) (2-3 Marks)

6. Describe the three components of a political party. (2014 D, 2015 OD, 2016 OD)

Ans. Components of a political party: (i) The leaders, (ii) The active members and (iii) the followers.

- The **leaders** are recruited and trained by parties. They are made ministers to run the government. The big policy decisions are taken by the political executives that come from the political parties.
- Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread over the country. Many of the pressure groups are the extensions of political parties among different sections of society. But since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the direction of the party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinion.
- The **followers** are the ordinary citizens, who believe in the policies of their respective party and give popular support through elections. Often the opinion of the followers crystallise on the lines parties take.

7. How do Political Parties influence public opinion? Examine. (2023)

Ans. Political Parties raise and highlight issues. Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread all over the country. Many of the pressure groups

are the extensions of political parties among different sections of society.

Parties sometimes also launch movements for the resolution of problems faced by people. Often opinions in the society crystallize on the lines that the parties take.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA) (Difficult) (5 Marks)

8. Why do we need political parties? Explain.

(2014 D, 2019 Series: JMS/1 & 3, 2020 Series: JBB/1)

Or, Describe any five major functions performed by political parties.

(2015 D, 2018, 2019 Series: JMS/1, 2020 Series: JBB/1)

Or, Analyze the need of Political Parties in the Democracy. (2023)

Ans. To fill political offices and exercise political power, political parties are needed to perform a series of functions, which are:

- (i) **Parties contest elections.** Elections are fought mainly among candidates put up different by political parties. In India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.
- (ii) **Parties put forward different policies and programmes.** Political parties in a democracy group together having similar opinions, to provide a direction in which government policies can be formulated.
- (iii) **Parties make laws for a country.** Laws are debated and passed in the legislature.
- (iv) **Parties that lose elections play the role of the opposition.** Opposition parties voice their views by criticizing government for its failure or wrong policies.
- (v) **Parties shape public opinion.** They raise and highlight issues and resolve people's problems. Many pressure groups are the extensions of political parties.
- (vi) **Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes.** For an ordinary citizen it is easy to approach a local party leader than a government officer.

9. "About hundred years ago there were few countries that had hardly any political party. Now there are few countries that do not have political parties." Examine this statement. (2014 OD)

Or, Explain the necessity of political parties in a democracy. (2018, 2019 Series: JMS/4)

Ans. We can understand the necessity of political parties by imagining a situation without parties. Every candidate in the election will be independent. Therefore, no major policy changes will be made. Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency but no one will be responsible for the smooth running of the country. As societies become large and complex, they need an agency to gather views on various issues and to present them to the government. There is a need to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government can be formed.

A mechanism is needed to support or restrain the government to make policies, justify or oppose them. Political parties fulfill the needs of a representative government and are thus a necessary condition for a democracy.

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

Ans. "Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy". They facilitate the running of the government with the help of its members who contest elections as a group.

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

11. Examine the role of opposition parties in a Democracy. (2014 Outside Delhi)

Or, Explain any three functions of opposition parties in politics. (2019 Series: JMS/1)

Ans. Opposition parties play an important role in democracies. They play both positive and negative role.

Positive role:

- (i) They ensure political party in power does not misuse or abuse its power.
- (ii) They expose the weaknesses of the ruling party.
- (iii) They also keep a close vigil on the bills and expenditure of the government.

Negative role:

- (i) They target the government and aim at dislodging and discrediting the government for all the ills and the troubles that the people face.
- (ii) Through stalling the proceedings of the parliament, *dharnas* and *gheravs*, Opposition curtails the progress of the country.

The Opposition's work is not to abstract the functioning of the administration but keep a close watch on the working of the party in power so that democracy becomes meaningful.



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-2

How many Parties should we have?

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I) (Easy)

(1 Mark)

12. How many parties are needed in any democratic system to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for the competing parties to come to power? (2012 Delhi)

Ans. At least two parties.

13. Examine any two features of Bi-Party system. (2023)

Ans. Features of bi-party system:

- (i) Power usually changes between two parties.
- (ii) The party that wins majority forms the government and the other sits in opposition.

14. Why did India adopt multi-party system? Give reasons. (2016 Outside Delhi, 2013 Delhi)

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 diversities in a multi-party system.

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II) (Average)

(2-3 Marks)

15. What is a multi-party system? Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain. (2015 D)

Or, How has multi-party system strengthened democracy in India? (2012 D)

Or, Explain the merits of Multi-party System.

Ans. Multi-party system. In this system, the government is formed by various parties coming

together in a coalition. 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.

For example, in India there were three major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections—the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the Left Front.

Merits of Multi-party system:

- (i) This system appears messy and leads to political instability. But, at the same time, it allows for a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.
- (ii) Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances. If India has evolved as a multi-party system, it is because its social and geographical diversity cannot be absorbed by two or three parties. Thus, such representation of social diversity strengthens democracy.
- (iii) Multi-party system facilitates representation of regional and geographical diversities. In India, several regional parties have been in power at the State level such as the DMK in Tamil Nadu, Akali Dal in Punjab and BSP and Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh.



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-3

National Political Parties

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I) (Easy) (1 Mark)

16. Name the national political party which draws inspiration from the teachings of Sahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Naicker and Babasaheb Ambedkar. (2014 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Bahujan Samaj Party

17. What is the source of inspiration of the 'Bhartiya Janata Party'? (2012 Outside Delhi)

Ans. The source of inspiration of the Bhartiya Janata Party or the BJP is ancient Indian culture and values. Cultural nationalism (*Hindutva*) is an important element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.

18. What is a recognised political party? (2011 Delhi)

Ans. A recognised political party is a party, recognised by the 'Election Commission' with all the privileges and facilities.

19. Mention the ideology of Indian National Congress.
Ans. Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian National Congress sought to build a modern secular democratic republic in India. The party propagates secularism and welfare of the weaker sections and minorities of society. It supports new economic reforms but with a human face.

20. Name any one political party that has national level political organisation but not recognised as a national political party. (2016 Delhi)

Ans. State parties like the Samajwadi Party, Samata Party and Rashtriya Janata Dal have national level political organisations with units in several states but are not recognised as national parties.

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II) (Average) (2-3 Marks)

21. What is meant by a 'national political party'? State the conditions required to be a national political party. (2016 Delhi)

Or, How are the political parties recognised as national parties in India? Explain with example. (2019 Series: JMS/1)

Ans. National parties are those which are present in several or all units of the federation. There are some countrywide parties known as national parties. They have their units in various states. By and large all these units follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level. Example, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Indian National Congress (INC).

Conditions required to be a national political party:

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

22. Name the national political party which gets inspiration from India's ancient culture and values. Mention four features of that party. (2013 Delhi)

Ans. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) founded in 1980 draws inspiration from India's ancient culture and values.

Features:

- (i) Cultural Nationalism (*Hindutva*) is an important element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.
- (ii) A uniform civil code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion and ban on religious conversions.

- (iii) Earlier limited to north and west and to urban areas, the party has expanded support in the south, east, the north-east and rural areas.
(iv) The BJP advocates social conservatism and a foreign policy centered on nationalist principles.

23. Explain the role of Election Commission regarding recognition of Political Parties in India. (2023)

Ans. For recognition of political parties in India, the Election Commission has set the following criteria:

- Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission.
- While the Commission treats all parties equally, it offers some special facilities to large and established parties.
- These parties are given a unique symbol—only the official candidates of that party can use that election symbol.
- Parties that get this privilege and some other special facilities are 'recognised' by the Election Commission and are called 'Recognised Political Parties'.
- The Election Commission has laid down detailed criteria of the proportion of votes and seats that a party must get in order to be a recognised party.



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-4

State Political Parties

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I)
(Easy) (1 Mark)

24. In which state does 'Biju Janata Dal' exist as a regional party? (2012 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Odisha (Orissa)

25. In which state does the 'Rashtriya Lok Dal' exist as a regional party? (2012 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Uttar Pradesh

26. Write names of some regional parties. (2015 D)

Ans. Akali Dal (Punjab), DMK (Tamil Nadu), RJD (Bihar) and Shiv Sena (Maharashtra).

27. Name any two regional parties of West Bengal. (2015 D)

Ans. (i) Forward Block (1940)
(ii) Trinamool Congress (1997)

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II) (Average) (2-3 Marks)

28. What is meant by a regional political party? State the conditions required to be recognised as a 'regional political party'. (2016 OD)

Or, How are political parties recognised as regional parties in India? Explain with example.

(2019 Series: JMS/1)

Ans. A regional party is a party that is present in only some states. Regional parties or State parties need not be regional in their ideology. They have state identity as they are present only in some states. Some of these parties are all India parties that happen to have succeeded only in states. Example, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal.

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

- (i) A party that secures atleast 6% of the total votes in an election to the legislative assembly of a state.
- (ii) Wins atleast 2 seats in the legislative assembly.

Related Concept

Regional parties have different dominance in their respective states. Not only this, when the time comes, these parties also form a government by joining hands with other parties.

29. "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. (2016 Delhi)

Or, Describe the importance of regional political parties in strengthening democracy.

(2018 Comptt.)

Or, Describe the importance of regional political parties in strengthening democracy. (2023)

Ans. The state parties also referred to as regional parties are not necessarily regional in ideology. Some of these parties are all India parties that happen to have succeeded only in some states. Over the last three decades, the number and strength of these parties has expanded. As a result, the national parties were compelled to form alliances with state parties.

Since 1996, nearly every one of the state parties got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government. This contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy. Example of state parties having national level political organisations with units in several states are—Samajwadi Party (SP), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Samata Party.



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-5

Challenges to Political Parties

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II) (Average) (2-3 Marks)

30. "Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the political parties." Analyse the statement. (2015 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning. So there are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party. Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage as they favour people close to them or even their family members.

In many parties in India, we see a trend of dynastic succession. The top positions are always controlled by members of a particular family, which is unfair to other members of the party, and bad for democracy. This is so because people who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power.

More than loyalty to party principles and policies, personal loyalty to the leader becomes more important. This tendency is seen all over the world, even in older democracies.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA) (Difficult) (5 Marks)

31. "All over the world, people express their dissatisfaction with the failure of political parties to perform their functions well." Analyse the statement with arguments. (2016 Delhi)

Or, Which three challenges do you feel are being faced by political parties in India? Give your opinion. (2016 Outside Delhi)

Or, Identify and explain challenges which political parties need to face and overcome in order to remain effective instruments of democracy. (2016 Outside Delhi)

Ans. Since political parties are the most visible face in a democracy, people blame them for whatever is wrong with the working of democracy.

There are four major areas where the working of political parties faces challenge:

(i) **Lack of internal democracy.** There is concentration of power in one or a few leaders at the top. Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meet-

ings and do not conduct internal elections regularly. More than loyalty to party principles and policies, it is personal loyalty which becomes more important. The leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party. Since one or few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who disagree with leadership find it difficult to continue in the party.

(ii) **Dynastic succession.** In many parties, top positions are always held by members of one family. Most political parties do not practice transparent and open procedures for their functioning and it is very difficult for an ordinary worker to rise to the top. This is bad for democracy, since people who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power.

(iii) **Money and muscle power.** Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts to win elections. They nominate candidates who have or can raise money and thus are able to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.

(iv) **No meaningful choice.** There has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties. They agree more on fundamental aspects, but differ only in details, on how policies are to be framed and implemented. Sometimes people cannot even elect different leaders as the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another.

32. Explain the growing role of money and muscle power in political parties. (2011 OD)

Or, How do money and muscle power play an important role in elections? (2015 OD)

Ans. Political parties need to face and overcome the growing challenge of Money and Muscle power during elections in order to remain effective instruments of democracy. Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use shortcuts to win elections, for example, like booth-rigging, distribution of food, money, alcohol, etc. to the poor voters to get their votes. Political parties tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money. Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party. These days, parties are supporting criminals who can win elections. This is a major cause of concern to the democrats all over the world who are worried about the increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics.



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-6

How can Parties be Reformed?

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II)
(Average) (2-3 Marks)

33. Explain any *five* suggestions to reform political parties in India. (2011 D)
Or, Suggest and explain any *five* effective measures to reform political parties. (2016 OD, 2015 OD)
Or, Describe any *five* efforts made to reform political parties in India. (2017 D, 2020 Series: JBB/1)
Ans. *Suggestions/measures/efforts to reform political parties in India:*

(i) Laws to regulate the internal affairs of political parties like maintaining a register of its members, to follow its own constitution, to have independent authority, to act as judge in case of party dispute, to hold open elections to the highest post.

Political Parties || P-65

- (ii) It should be mandatory for political parties to give one-third tickets to women candidates. Also there should be quota for women on the decision-making bodies of the party.
(iii) There should be state funding of elections. The government should give money to parties to support their election expenses in kind (petrol, paper, telephone, etc.) or in cash on the basis of votes secured by the party in the previous election.
(iv) All the political candidates should be educated, so that they can solve and understand people's problems. Their previous record should be clean. They should be honest and there should be no criminal case against them.
(v) Citizens can reform politics if they take part directly and join political parties. People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity in media, agitations etc.



2024 CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION

Questions

— 2024 (Series: AB3CD/1) Set-I —

- Q.12. Which one of the following countries has two-party system? 1
(a) China (b) United Kingdom
(c) India (d) Pakistan
Q.27. Analyse the role of political parties in a democracy. 3

2024 (Series: AB3CD/1) Set-II

- Q.27. How do political parties function within a democratic system? Explain. 3

2024 (Series: AB3CD/1) Set-III

- Q.27 Explain any *three* challenges that political parties often face in their functioning. 3

— 2024 (Series: AAB1/3) Set-I —

- Q.12. How do Political Parties ensure accountability to the public? Choose the most suitable option from the following: 1
(a) Through Press Conferences.
(b) Through Social Media Campaigns.
(c) Through encouraging Partisanship.
(d) Through Elections and Voter Support.
Q.27. Describe any *three* functions of the Political Parties. 3



SCAN ME!
FOR ANSWERS

Competency Based Questions

Stand Alone Multiple Choice Questions

1
mark

- Political parties are most visible institutions in a democracy because:
Which of the given statements is false?
(a) even less educated citizens know about political parties.
(b) for ordinary citizens democracy is equal to political parties.
(c) parties have become identified with social and political divisions.
(d) most people in a democracy are not critical of political parties.
- The number of political parties registered with the Election Commission of India is:
(a) 750 parties
(b) More than 750 parties
(c) Less than 750 parties
(d) 705 parties
- Which party is only allowed to rule in China?
(a) Socialist party (b) Communist party
(c) Liberal party (d) Maoist party
- How many parties are needed in any democratic system to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for the competing parties to come to power?
(a) Less than two
(b) At least two parties
(c) More than two parties
(d) At least three parties
- An example of a country where two-party system exists:
(a) India (b) United Kingdoms
(c) China (d) Pakistan
- An example of a country having the multi-party system is:
(a) China (b) USA
(c) India (d) United Kingdoms
- The term 'partisan' means:
(a) A group of people who come together to promote common beliefs.
(b) Affair of the state or the science of governance.
(c) A person who is strongly committed to a party.
(d) The ruling party which runs the government.

- A recognised political party is:
(a) a party that is present in only one of the federal units.
(b) a party that is present in several and all units of the federation.
(c) a party that is based on regional and communal diversities.
(d) a party that gets some privileges and some other special facilities by the Election Commission.
- Parties are about a part of the society and thus involve?
(a) Partnership (b) Participation
(c) Partisanship (d) Political partnership
- What are the components of a political party?
(a) Leaders (b) Active members
(c) Followers (d) All of the above
- Which one of the following is not a component of a political party?
(a) The leaders
(b) The followers
(c) The active members
(d) Women
- In a democracy
(a) Parties are unanimously chosen
(b) Parties contest elections
(c) Parties are self chosen
(d) Parties are aristocratic
- What do the democracies ensure regarding the decision making?
(a) Decisions are taken by the heads of the companies.
(b) Process of transparency.
(c) Decisions by the Prime Minister.
(d) Restricted popular participation in decision making.
- Parties function through
(a) demands of the people
(b) the way they want to
(c) policies and programmes
(d) None of the above
- Can parties play a role in making laws for the country?
(a) Yes (b) No
(c) May be (d) In some conditions
- Those parties that lose in the elections
(a) Can still run the government
(b) Play the role of opposition

- (c) Can make policies and programmes
(d) Cannot criticise the government
17. A government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the?
(a) all nominated parties
(b) ruling party
(c) opposition party and Ruling Party
(d) All the parties
18. One of the important functions of political parties is to provide people access to and
(a) Constitution; Prime Minister
(b) Prime Minister; the President
(c) government machinery; welfare schemes
(d) None of the above
19. A ruling party is a:
(a) party that has lost the election.
(b) party sitting in opposition.
(c) political party that runs the government.
(c) political party not having any registration.
20. In 2006, how many national parties were recognised?
(a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 4 (d) 3
21. Which one of the following countries has one-party System? (2023)
(a) China (b) India
(c) Pakistan (d) America
22. Which one of the following countries has two-party system? (2023)
(a) China (b) Russia
(c) America (d) India

Assertion-Reason Questions

1 mark

DIRECTION: There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- (a) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
(b) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
(c) Assertion is true but Reason is false.
(d) Both Assertion and Reason are false.
1. **Assertion.** In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties.
Reason. In India there were three such major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections the National Democratic Alliance, the United Progressive Alliance and the Left Front.
2. **Assertion.** Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission.

Reason. While the Commission treats all parties equally, it offers some special facilities to large and established parties.

BE AWARE !!



Students should read daily newspaper to pay attention to the current trends in the country or workings of political parties. This will be very helpful to understand this chapter.

3. **Assertion.** Since 1996, nearly every State party has got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government.
Reason. This has contributed to weakening of federalism and democracy in our country.
4. **Assertion.** Over the last three decades, the number and strength of these parties has expanded.
Reason. This made the Parliament of India politically less and less diverse.
5. **Assertion.** The first challenge is lack of internal democracy within parties.
Reason. Very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters.
6. **Assertion.** The role of money and muscle power has increased in politics
Reason. Parties nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money.
7. **Assertion.** Bahujan Samaj Party was formed in 1984 by Kanshi Ram.
Reason. BSP was formed to represent and secure power for dalits, adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities.
8. **Assertion.** Parties are about a part of the society and thus involve partisanship.
Reason. A political party has leaders, active members and followers.
9. **Assertion.** A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
Reason. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.
10. **Assertion.** In some countries, only one party is allowed to control and run the government. Those are called one-party systems.
Reason. We cannot consider one-party system as a good option because this is not a democratic option.
11. **Assertion (A):** Political Parties are important in the functioning of democracy.
Reason (R): The media plays an important role in the making of Political Parties.

Match the Columns

1 mark

1.	Column-A	Column-B
	(a) Congress Party	(i) National Democratic Alliance
	(b) Bharatiya Janata Party	(ii) State Party
	(c) Communist Party of India (Marxist)	(iii) United Progressive Alliance
	(d) Telugu Desam Party	(iv) National Party
2.	Column-A	Column-B
	(a) Ruling party	(i) A person who is strongly committed to a party or a group.
	(b) Affidavit	(ii) A group of people who contest elections and hold power in the government.
	(c) Defection	(iii) Political party that runs government.
	(d) Partisan	(iv) Changing party allegiance from one party to a different party.
	(e) Political Party	(v) A significant document submitted to an officer when making a statement.
3.	Column-A	Column-B
	(a) Indian National Congress	(i) Welfare of dalits and Oppressed people
	(b) Bharatiya Janata Party	(ii) Marxism-Leninism
	(c) Bahujan Samaj Party	(iii) Cultural Nationalism
	(d) Communist Party of India (CPI)	(iv) Centrist

Picture Based Questions

1 mark

1.



Which challenges to political parties is depicted in the given cartoon?

2.

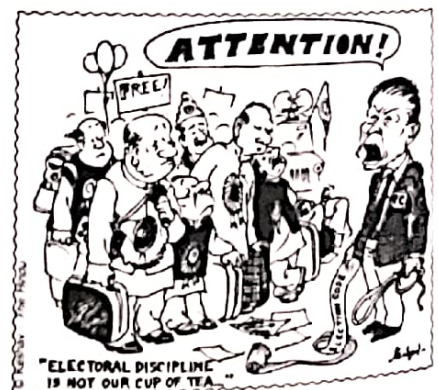


What does this picture depict?

(a) It does not support one party rule in USA.

- (b) Corporate America controls all major institutions of the country.
(c) The rule of party whose symbol is elephant.
(d) President has no say in the decision, people are the priority.

3.



Do you agree that this form of reforming political parties will be acceptable to the parties?

BE AWARE !!



Students must pay attention to every picture and its caption given in the textbook because questions related to these can be asked in the exam.

Case/Source Based Questions

4-5 marks

- I. 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. Since there can be different views on what is good for all, parties try to persuade people why their policies are better than others. They seek to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

1. Which is the most democratic form of party system?
(a) Two party
(b) Multi party
(c) One Party
(d) All given options are equally democratic
 2. A Political party reduces a vast multitude of into few basic positions that it supports.
(a) Opinions (b) Demands
(c) Expectations (d) Speculations
 3. Which of these statements is incorrect?
(a) Parties reflect fundamental political unity in a society.
(b) Parties try to persuade people why their policies are better than others.
(c) They seek to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.
(d) All of the above
 4. Parties try to change people's opinions on certain things through:
(a) Strict laws
(b) Passing ordinance
(c) Persuasion
(d) Aggressive campaigning
- II. Party system is not something 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 and its system of elections. These cannot be changed very quickly. Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances. For example, if India has evolved a multi-party system, it is because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties. No system is ideal for all countries and all situations.

Political Parties || P-69

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

5. Name the party system in USA.
(a) Multi party system (b) Single party system
(c) Coalition (d) Two party system
6. Why does India have a democratic system?
(a) India is a large country
(b) India has social and geographical diversity
(c) India is a democratic country
(d) All of the above
7. Why does not China have a democratic system?
(a) No free competition of power
(b) Rule of Communist Party
(c) No chance to form other political parties
(d) None of the above
8. In a Multi Party System, what can cause instability in politics?
(a) Coalition (b) Alliance
(c) Weak Opposition (d) Lack of Vigilant Citizens

III. Political parties are easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy. For most ordinary citizens, democracy is equal to political parties. If you travel to remote parts of our country and speak to the less educated citizens, you 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. At the same time this visibility does not mean popularity. Most people tend to be very critical of political parties. They tend to blame parties for all that is wrong with our democracy and our political life. Parties have become identified with social and political divisions.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

9. What is the role played by the ruling party in democracy?
(a) Ruling party runs the administration of the country.
(b) Ruling party makes laws for the country after discussions with parliament.
(c) Ruling party declares emergency in the country.
(d) Ruling party dissolves the Parliament.
10. Which of the two parties given below are national Parties?
(a) Bharatiya Janata Party and Akali Dal
(b) Indian National Congress and Muslim League
(c) Communist Party of India and Bahujan Samaj Party
(d) National Congress Party & Trinamool Congress

11. Berlusconi was the leader of Forza Italia founded in:

- (a) 1992 (b) 1991 (c) 1993 (d) 1990

12. Elephant is the symbol of

- (a) Indian National Congress (INC)
(b) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
(c) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
(d) Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)

IV. Carefully study the cartoon and answer the questions that follows:



Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

13. The cartoon is about Berlusconi who was the Prime Minister of

- (a) Spain (b) Italy
(c) Germany (d) France

14. This Cartoon represents which challenge that political parties face

- (a) dynastic succession
(b) money and muscle power
(c) right to freedom
(d) no meaningful choice

15. "Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party." True/False

16. Berlusconi's company owns:

- (a) TV channels and the most important publishing company.
(b) A football club and a bank
(c) Both (a) and (b)
(d) Only (b)

V. Ordinary citizens, pressure groups and movements and the media can play an important role in this. If political parties feel that they would lose public support by not taking up reforms, they would become more serious about reforms. Two, political parties can improve if those who want this join political parties. The quality of democracy depends on the degree of public participation. It is difficult to reform politics if ordinary citizens

do not take part in it and simply criticise it from the outside. The problem of bad politics can be solved by more and better politics.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

17. Election Commission is working towards reforming political parties, identify the steps already taken in this respect.

- I. Candidates who contest have to file an Affidavit.
- II. Anti-Defection law has been passed.
- III. Political parties have to give minimum one-third tickets to women.
- IV. Political Parties to hold organisational elections.

Choose which statements are correct:

- (a) Only (I) (b) Both (I) and (II)
(c) All of the above (d) (I), (II) and (IV)

18. Which of the reforms is incorrectly matched with the institution that brought the change?

Reform	Institution
(a) Mandatory to hold internal elections	(i) Election Commission
(b) Submitting Affidavit	(ii) Supreme Court
(c) Anti Defection law	(iii) Constitution by Parliament
(d) Parties to file income tax returns	(iv) Supreme Court

19. Which of the following is an example of use of money and muscle power? Choose the correct option:

- I. Parties nominate candidates who have lots of money.
- II. Parties support criminals who can win elections.
- III. Big companies fund parties and influence policies and decisions.

- (a) Only (I) (b) Both (I) and (II)
(c) Both (II) and (III) (d) All of the above

20. State any two ways in which public can reform political parties?

VI. 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. Since there can be different views on what is good for all, parties try to persuade people why their policies are better than others. They seek to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

21. What is a political party?
 (a) Self made groups who automatically hold power.
 (b) A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
 (c) Non government groups to do social work.
 (d) Government organizations for social work.

22. A clock is a symbol of
 (a) Communist Party of India
 (b) Bhartiya Janta Party
 (c) Nationalist Congress Party
 (d) Indian National Congress

23. Rashtriya Lok Dal is a:
 (a) National political party
 (b) District political party
 (c) government body
 (d) Regional political party

24. Indian National Congress was founded in the year:
 (a) 1890 (b) 1885 (c) 1820 (d) 1891

VII. Most of the major parties of the country are classified by the Election Commission as 'State parties'. These are commonly referred to as regional parties. Yet these 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 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, Mizo National Front and Telangana Rashtra Samithi are conscious about their State identity.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

25. Which is a recognized political party?
 (a) A party that is present in only one of the federal units.
 (b) A party that is based on regional and communal diversities.
 (c) A party that is recognized by the 'Election Commission' with all the privileges and facilities.
 (d) A party that is present in several and all units of the federation.
26. In which of the following states does Shiv Sena exist as a regional political party?
 (a) Gujarat (b) Karnataka
 (c) Maharashtra (d) Madhya Pradesh
27. More than parties are registered with the Election Commission of India:
 (a) 750 (b) 814 (c) 758 (d) 700

28. Which of these is not a State Party?
 (a) TDP (b) DMK (c) SAD (d) CPI

VIII. There are some countrywide parties, which are called 'national parties'. These parties have their units in various states. But by and large, all these units follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level. Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission. While the Commission treats all parties equally, it offers some special facilities to large and established parties. These parties are given a unique symbol—only the official candidates of that party can use that election symbol.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

29. A group of people who come close to each other to attain their common aim of power is known as:
 (a) Political Party (b) Interest Group
 (c) Political leadership (d) Factional group
30. India has major National Parties?
 (a) 4 (b) 8 (c) 6 (d) 10
31. Which of these is a National Party?
 (a) INC (b) BSP (c) BJP (d) All of these
32. Which of these is not a National Party?
 (a) INC (b) SAD (c) BJP (d) CPI (M)

IX. In a democracy any group of citizens is free to form a political party. In this formal sense, there are a large number of political parties in each country. More than 750 parties are registered with the Election Commission of India. But not all these parties are serious contenders in the elections. Usually only a handful of parties are effectively in the race to win elections and form the government.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

33. System with one party is known as:
 (a) Uni-party system (b) Multi-party system
 (c) Bi-party system (d) None of these
34. System of two parties is known as:
 (a) Uni-party system (b) Multi-party system
 (c) Bi-party system (d) None of these
35. System of many parties is known as:
 (a) Bi-party system (b) Multi-party system
 (c) Uni-party system (d) None of these
36. Which of these countries have Bi-party system?
 (a) India (b) England
 (c) France (d) Pakistan
37. Which of these countries have Uni-party system?
 (a) China (b) North Korea
 (c) Cuba (d) All of these



Stand Alone Multiple Choice Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (b) | 3. (b) | 4. (b) | 5. (b) |
| 6. (c) | 7. (c) | 8. (d) | 9. (c) | 10. (d) |
| 11. (d) | 12. (b) | 13. (b) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) |
| 16. (b) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (c) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (a) | 22. (c) | | | |

Assertion-Reason Answers

- (b) Both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties. Several others parties may exist, contest elections and win a few seats in the national legislature, but only two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority of seats to form a government.
- (a) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
The Election Commission offers special privileges and facilities to registered parties.
- (c) Assertion is true but reason is false.
The assertion is correct but reason is incorrect as this has constituted to weakening of federation and democracy in our country.
- (c) Assertion is true but reason is false.
The assertion is correct but reason is incorrect as this has made the Parliament of India politically more and more diverse.
- (b) Both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
All over the world, there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few hands at the top and thus there is lack of internal democracy within parties.
- (a) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
Since parties are focused only on winning the elections, they tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money.
- (a) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
Bahujan Samaj Party was formed to represent and secure power for the Bahujan Samaj which includes the dalits, adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities.
- (b) Both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
A party is known by the part of society for which

it stands for, which policies it supports and whose interests it upholds.

- (a) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
People come together to hold power in the government and implement their policies by winning popular support through elections.
- (b) Both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
One party system can not be considered a good option because this is not a democratic option. Any democratic system must allow at least two parties to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for competing parties to come to power.
- (b) Both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

Match the Columns

- (a) — (iii); (b) — (i); (c) — (iv); (d) — (ii)
- (a) — (iii); (b) — (v); (c) — (iv); (d) — (i); (e) — (ii)
- (a) — (iv); (b) — (iii); (c) — (i); (d) — (ii)

Picture Based Answers

- Money and muscular power
- (b)
- This form of reforming political parties is not acceptable because over-regulation of political parties can be counter productive. This would force all parties to find ways to cheat the law. Besides, political parties will not agree to pass a law that they do not like.

Case/Source Based Answers

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|---------|
| I. 1. (b) | 2. (a) | 3. (d) | 4. (d) |
| II. 5. (d) | 6. (d) | 7. (b) | 8. (a) |
| III. 9. (a) | 10. (c) | 11. (c) | 12. (c) |
| IV. 13. (b) | 14. (a) | 15. True | 16. (c) |
| V. 17. (d) | 18. (d) | 19. (d) | |
20. (i) People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and agitations.
(ii) Those who want to reform parties should join these (political parties).
- | | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|
| VI. 21. (b) | 22. (c) | 23. (d) | 24. (b) |
| VII. 25. (c) | 26. (c) | 27. (a) | 28. (d) |
| VIII. 29. (a) | 30. (b) | 31. (d) | 32. (b) |
| IX. 33. (a) | 34. (c) | 35. (b) | 36. (b) |
37. (d)