

POLITICAL PARTIES

1. 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

2. India has...major National Parties?

- (a) 4
- (b) 8
- (c) 6
- (d) 10

3. Which of these is a National Party?

- (a) INC
- (b) BSP
- (c) BJP
- (d) All of these

4. Which of these is not a National Party?

- (a) INC
- (b) SAD
- (c) BJP
- (d) CPI (M)

5. Which of these is not a State Party?

- (a) TDP
- (b) DMK
- (c) SAD
- (d) CPI

6. Which of these is the main component of political party?

- (a) Leaders
- (b) The followers
- (c) Active members
- (d) All of these

7. Which of these is the function of political party?

- (a) To contest election
- (b) To form and run government
- (c) To form public opinion
- (d) All of these

8. Political party that runs the government is

- (a) Ruling party
- (b) Interest group
- (c) Opposition party
- (d) Factional group

9. The rise of political parties is directly linked to....

- (a) Emergence of representative democracies
- (b) Large scale societies
- (c) Mechanism of restrain and support the government
- (d) All of these

10. System with one party is known as....

- (a) Uni-party system
- (b) Multi-party system
- (c) Bi-party system
- (d) None of these

11. System of two parties is known as....

- (a) Uni-party system

- (b) Multi-party system
- (c) Bi-party system
- (d) None of these

12. System of many parties is known as....

- (a) Bi-party system
- (b) Multi-party system
- (c) Uni-party system
- (d) None of these

13. Which of these countries have Uni-party system?

- (a) China
- (b) North Korea
- (c) Cuba
- (d) All of these

14. Which of these countries have Bi-party system?

- (a) India
- (b) England
- (c) France
- (d) Pakistan

15. Any party with 6% of total votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four states and wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha is recognized as....

- (a) National Party
- (b) Regional Party
- (c) State Party
- (d) Factional Party

16. Which out of the following is a feature of 'Partisanship'?

- (a) Inability to take a balanced view

- (b) Similarity of views
- (c) Represents the individual
- (d) None of these

17. Who is a 'Partisan'?

- (a) Disloyal party member
- (b) Staunch party member
- (c) Estranged party member
- (d) None of these

18. How many parties are registered with the Election Commission of India?

- (a) 500
- (b) 650
- (c) 700
- (d) 750

19. What is meant by one-party system?

- (a) One single party runs the government
- (b) One single person runs the parties
- (c) When the King rules the country
- (d) When one party is allowed to contest elections

20. What is meant by two-party system?

- (a) Two parties run the government
- (b) Two members run a party
- (c) Two parties run the government one by one
- (d) Two parties contest elections

21. What system of government does India have?

- (a) One-party system
- (b) Two-party system

- (c) Multi-party system
- (d) None of these

22. What is an 'alliance'?

- (a) One party contests elections
- (b) Several parties join hands for contesting elections
- (c) Two parties contest elections
- (d) None of these

23. What are 'National parties'?

- (a) Parties which have units in various states
- (b) Parties which have no units
- (c) Parties which have units in two states
- (d) Parties which have units in all states

24. On what ideologies does the Indian National Congress rest?

- (a) Communalism
- (b) Socialism
- (c) Federalism
- (d) Secularism

25.. The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) came to power in 1998 as the leader of:

- (a) United Progressive Alliance
- (b) Left front
- (c) National Democratic Alliance
- (d) None of these

26. Who is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)?

- (a) Jyotiba Phule
- (b) Kanshi Ram
- (c) B.R. Ambedkar

(d) Sahu Maharaj

27. The main base of BSP is in:

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

28. Which party enjoys a strong hold in Tripura, West Bengal and Kerala?

- (a) CPI (M)
- (b) CPI
- (c) BSP
- (d) BJP

29. Which party has been in power for 30 years now?

- (a) BJP
- (b) CPI
- (c) CPI (M)
- (d) NCP

30. Which party has advocated the coming together of all Left parties?

- (a) CPI
- (b) CPI (M)
- (c) NCP
- (d) INC

31. Which political party from the six main parties was formed as late as in 1999?

- (a) BJP
- (b) CPI (M)

- (c) NCP
- (d) BSP

32. Which out of the following is a 'state party'?

- (a) BSP
- (b) Rashtriya Janta Dal
- (c) BJP
- (d) NCP

34. What is meant by 'Defection'?

- (a) Loyalty towards a party
- (b) Changing party allegiance
- (c) Political reforms
- (d) None of these

35. What is an 'Affidavit'?

- (a) Over-regulation of political parties
- (b) Decision-making body of the party
- (c) Details of a contesting candidate
- (d) None of these

36. Which of these is the challenge faced by political party?

- (a) Lack of internal democracy
- (b) Dynastic succession
- (c) Growing role of money and muscle power
- (d) All of these

37. Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected is known as....

- (a) Changing party
- (b) Defection
- (c) Mobility

(d) None of these

38. The party that loses the elections and does not form the government is called....

- (a) Ruling party
- (b) Interest group
- (c) Opposition party
- (d) Factional group

40. Whom do political parties have to register themselves?

- (a) State government
- (b) Central government
- (c) Election Commission
- (d) None of these

41. What are the components of political parties?

- (a) The leaders
- (b) The active members
- (c) The followers
- (d) All the above

42. When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called....

- (a) Alliance
- (b) Uni-party system
- (c) Group
- (d) None of these

43. When was the Indian National Congress founded?

- (a) 1785
- (b) 1885
- (c) 1985

(d) 1990

44. When was the Bhartiya Janta Party founded?

(a) 1970

(b) 1975

(c) 1980

(d) 1985

45. When was the communist party of India-Marxist founded?

(a) 1764

(b) 1864

(c) 1964

(d) 2004

46. What is the political election symbol of congress party?

(a) Symbol of Lotus

(b) Symbol of Hand

(c) Symbol of elephant

(d) Symbol of clock

47. 'Lotus' is a political symbol of which party?

(a) Indian National Congress

(b) Bahujan Samaj Party

(c) Bhartiya Janta Party

(d) CPI (M)

48. When was the Nationalist Congress Party formed?

(a) 1996

(b) 1998

(c) 1999

(d) 2000

49. Which party was formed under the leadership of Kanshi Ram?

- (a) BJP
- (b) BSP
- (c) CPI (M)
- (d) INC

50. How many seats have been secured by the INC in the Lok Sabha elections held in 2004?

- (a) 19
- (b) 119
- (c) 145
- (d) 120

51. Which is the principal opposition party in the Lok Sabha after the elections of 2004?

- (a) Indian National Congress
- (b) Bhartiya Janta Party
- (c) Bahujan Samaj Party
- (d) Communist Party of India

52. Which political party was in power in West Bengal without a break for last 30 years?

- (a) INC
- (b) BJP
- (c) CPI-(M)
- (d) CPI

53. Which of these is a state party?

- (a) Biju Janta Dal
- (b) Indian National Lok Dal
- (c) Sikkim Democratic Front

(d) All of these

54. UPA stands for-

- (a) Union Progressive Alliance
- (b) Union Protested Alliance
- (c) United Progressive Allowance
- (d) United Progressive Alliance

ANSWERS

1. (a) Political Party
2. (c) 6
3. (d) All of these
4. (b) SAD
5. (d) CPI
6. (d) All of these
7. (d) All of these
8. (a) Ruling party
9. (d) All of these
10. (a) Uni-party system
11. (c) Bi-party system
12. (b) Multi-party system
13. (d) All of these
14. (b) England
15. (a) National Party
16. (a) Inability to take a balanced view
17. (a) Disloyal party member
18. (d) 750
19. (a) One single party runs the government

20. (a) Two parties run the government
21. (c) Multi-party system
22. (b) Several parties join hands for contesting elections
23. (a) Parties which have units in various states
24. (d) Secularism
25. (c) National Democratic Alliance
26. (b) Kanshi Ram
27. (d) Uttar Pradesh
28. (a) CPI (M)
29. (c) CPI (M)
30. (a) CPI
31. (c) NCP
32. (b) Rashtriya Janta Dal
34. (b) Changing party allegiance
35. (c) Details of a contesting candidate
36. (d) All of these
37. (b) Defection
38. (c) Opposition party
40. (c) Election Commission
41. (d) All the above
42. (a) Alliance
43. (b) 1885
44. (c) 1980
45. (c) 1964
46. (b) Symbol of Hand
47. (c) Bhartiya Janta Party
48. (a) 1996
49. (b) BSP
50. (c) 145
51. (b) Bhartiya Janta Party
52. (c) CPI-(M)
53. (d) All of these
54. (d) United Progressive Alliance

Q.1: Which of the following is the most visible institutions in a democracy?

- a) Leaders
- b) Political parties
- c) Govt.
- d) People

Q.2: How many political parties are registered with the election commission of India?

- a) Less than 100
- b) Between 100 to 500
- c) Between 500 to 750
- d) More than 750

Q.3: A Political party has to satisfy the following criteria to be recognized as a national party—

- a) 6% votes of total votes in Lok sabha or assembly elections of four status
- b) At least 6 Lok sabha seats
- c) 12% votes of total votes in Lok sabha
- d) At least 12 Lok sabha seats

Q.4: How many political parties were recognized as National parties in India in 2006?

- a) 06
- b) 16
- c) 750
- d) 21

Q.5: How many Lok sabha constituencies are there in India at present?

- a) 540

- b) 543
- c) 547
- d) 563

Q.6: Area wise which is the largest Lok Sabha constituency in India?

- a) Karol Bag
- b) Ghaziabad
- c) Mumbai City
- d) Ladakh

Q.7: The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) came to power in 1998 as the leader of

- a) United Progressive Alliance
- b) Left front
- c) National Democratic Alliance
- d) None of these

Q.8: Which party system does India follow—

- a) Single party system
- b) Two party system
- c) Multi party system
- d) All of them

Q.9: What is By –election?

- a) Elections held to fill a vacancy caused by the death or any other house.
- b) Election held after a specific period.
- c) Election held to form the new govt.
- d) Election held in between the fixed term of the house.

Q.10: Who is the founder of the Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP)

- a) Jyotibai Phule
- b) Kanshi Ram
- c) B. R. Ambedkar
- d) Maya Vati

Q.11: On what ideology close the Indian National Congress rest?

- a) Communalism
- b) Socialism
- c) Federation
- d) Secularism

Q.12: Which political party from the six main parties was formed as late as in 1999?

- a) BJP
- b) CPI
- c) NCP
- d) BSP

Q.13: The law that says if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature, is –

- a) Anti detection law
- b) Anti criminal law
- c) Anti monument law
- d) Anti party law

Q.14: Which of the following pairs is not correct?

- a) Role of money and muscle power -- challenge to political parties
- b) Anti detection law -- Reformation of political parties
- c) Multi party system -- The USA and the UK
- d) Indian National Congress -- United Progressive Alliance

Q.15: The party that believes in Marxism – Leninism and supports

socialism, secularism and democracy and opposes imperialism is—

- a) Communist Party of India
- b) Communist party of India – Marxist
- c) Bahujan Samaj Party
- d) Indian National Congress

Check Your Answers of MCQs on Political Parties:

**1.(b) 2.(d) 3.(a) 4.(a) 5.(a) 6.(d) 7.(c) 8.(c) 9.(a) 10.(b) 11.(d) 12.(c)
13.(a) 14.(c) 15.(b)**

Short Answer Questions:

Q.1: Why do we need political parties?

Ans.: -We need political parties for the following reasons:

1. Political parties are easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy.
2. For most ordinary citizens, political parties are equal to democracy.
3. Political parties help in making public opinion and forming the government.

Q.2: Describe the merits of multi party system through points.

Ans.: The merits of multi-party system:

1. More than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others
2. This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.
3. In India we have multi party system and the coalition government for last 15 years which benefits all sections of the population.

Q.3: What are the characteristics of a political party?

Ans.: The characteristics of a political party:

1. It is a group of people coming together to contest elections and share power.
2. It agrees on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote collective good.
3. It lends to implement these policies by viewing popular support through elections.
4. It is known by which part it stands for, which policies it supports and whose interest it upholds.

Q.4: What is the role of opposition party in a democracy?

Ans.: The role of opposition party in a democracy:

1. Constructive criticism of government.
2. Restriction of arbitrariness of ruling party.
3. Safeguard, liberty and rights of the people.
4. Well prepared to form government.
5. Expression of public opinion.

Q.5: Give an account of the functions (any four) of political parties.

Ans.: The four functions of political parties:

1. They educate the masses, through their meetings and propaganda about various problems faced by the country.
2. Helps in the formation of public opinion.
3. They contest elections and try to get the maximum number of their candidates elected.
4. They serve as a link between the government and the people.
5. The party which gets an absolute majority, forms the government, others form opposition.

Q.6: “The rise of political parties is linked to the emergence of representative democracies.” Comment on the statement.

Ans.: As a society becomes large and complex they also need some agencies together with different views on various issues and to present

these to the government. They need some ways to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government can be formed. They need a mechanism to support and restrain the government make policies, justify or oppose them.

Q.7: How the role of money and muscle influenced and become a cause of worry? What steps have been taken to cure it?

Ans.: - The role of money and muscle power grows during elections because the focus of the parties is on winning 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 increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic process had been a cause of worry.

To cure the influence of money and muscle power, the supreme court has passed an order making it mandatory for every candidate, to file an affidavit giving details of his assets and criminal cases pending against him.

Q.8: Explain some measures to strengthen the election system of India.

Ans.: Measures to strengthen the election system of India:

1. Many people are of the opinion that with the purpose to check the misuse of money power, provisions of state funding elements should be made.
2. Laws should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties to maintain a register of its members to follow its own constitution, to have an independent authority and to hold open election to the highest post.
3. Effort should be made to discourage the non serious candidates from contesting elections.

Q.9: How an ordinary citizen can contribute in reforming the

political parties?

Ans.:The ways by which an ordinary citizen can contribute in reforming the political parties are as follows:

1. Ordinary citizens can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and agitations. Pressure groups and movements can play an important role in it.
2. Learned people should join the political parties because the quality of democracy depends on the degree of public participation.
3. It is difficult to reform politics without taking part in it and simply criticizing it from outside.

Q.10: When does a political party get recognition as a “National party” and “State party”?

Ans.:The conditions are as follows:

1. A party that secures at least six percent 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.
2. A party that secures at least six percent of the total votes in an election to the legislative assembly of state and wins at least two seats is recognized as a State party.

Long Answer Questions of Political Parties:

Q.1: What are the main functions of a political party?

Ans.: The main functions of a political party are:

1. To contest election.
2. Forming policies and programmes.
3. Making laws.
4. Parties form and run government.

5. To play an active role of opposition.
6. Shaping public opinion.
7. Access to government machinery and welfare schemes.

Q.2: What are the challenges between political parties in India?

Ans.: Following points can be given with explanation as the challenges of political parties in India—

1. Lack of internal democracy.
2. Lack of transparency.
3. Use of money and muscle power.
4. Not providing meaningful choice to the voter.

Q.3: Mention the features of Congress party in India?

Ans.: The features of Congress party are as follows:

1. Congress party was founded in 1885 and has experienced many splits since then.
2. It was a ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then in 1980-89, 2000 to till date.
3. This party supports secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities.
4. It supports new economic reforms but with a human face.
5. It emerged as the largest party with 145 seats in the Lok Sabha elections in 2004.
6. It currently leads the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition government at the centre.

Q.4: Explain the different forms of party systems existing in various countries?

Ans.: There are three forms of party systems existing in the world –

1. Single Party System:

Under this system only one party is allowed to function. This system cannot be considered a good option because this is not a democratic

option. E.g. – Communist party of China.

2. Two/Party system:

Under this system only two parties are allowed to function; one in organization and other in opposition. This system is a better option to single party system but cannot be considered perfect. E.g.—U.S.A. & U.K.

3. Multi-Party System:

When several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power, either on their own or in alliance with others, It is called a multi party system. This system leads to political instability at the same time it allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation. E. g. – India.

1. State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy?

Ans: The various functions of political parties are:

- (i) Contest Elections: In most democracies, political parties contest elections.
- (ii) Policies and Programmes: Political parties put forward different policies and programmes among which the voters opt.
- (iii) Form and Run the Government: Political parties form and run government in a democratic country.
- (iv) Law Making: Political parties play a decisive role in making laws for the country.
- (v) Role of the Opposition: The losing party in the election acts as the opposition party. It keeps a check on the ruling party.
- (vi) Form the Public Opinion: Political parties shape public opinion.
- (vii) Access to Government Machinery and Welfare Schemes: Political parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes.

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

Ans: Following are the various challenges faced by political parties:

- (i) Lack of Internal Democracy: All over the world there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in the hand of one or few leaders at the top. This leads to lack of internal democracy in a political party.
- (ii) Dynastic succession: In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family. This is unfair to other members of that party.
- (iii) Money and Muscle power: The parties are indulged in the use of money and muscle power for winning elections. This hampers the democracy from developing and lessens the importance of genuine leaders within the party.
- (iv) Meaningful choice of the Voters: The parties have almost common ideologies, so there is lack of meaningful choices before the voters.

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

Ans: Suggestions to strengthen parties:

- (i) There should be some laws to regulate the internal affairs of parties. They should follow their constitution.
- (ii) There should be state funding of elections.
- (iii) It should be made mandatory for all political parties to reserve minimum seats for women.
- (iv) The people should put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and agitations.

4. What is a political party?

Ans: A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections, and form and run government by holding power in the government.

5. What are the characteristics of a political party?

Ans: The characteristics of a political party are given below:

- (i) Political party is a group of people coming together to contest elections and share power.
- (ii) It agrees on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote collective good.
- (iii) It seeks to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.
- (iv) It reflects a fundamental political division of the society.
- (v) It is known by which part it stands for, which policies it supports and whose interest it upholds.

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

Ans: Political party.

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

List I

- 1. Congress Party Alliance
- 2. Bharatiya Janta Party
- 3. Communist Party of India (Marxist)
- 4. Telugu Desam Party

List II

- A. National Democratic
- B. State Party
- C. United Progressive Alliance
- 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) C A D B

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. Kanshi Ram

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

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

Ans: B. Revolutionary democracy

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: (a) A and B

11. Name the three components of political parties.

Ans: The three components of political parties are:

- (i) The leader
- (ii) The active members
- (iii) The followers

12. What is meant by Uni-party system and Multi-party system? Give an example.

Ans: Uni-party system:- There is only one political party in country. This party system is followed in China.

Multi-party system:- There are three or more parties in the political sphere. Every party has the capacity to win the elections and form the government. Sometimes, no party gets the majority and they join together to form the government. The multi-party system is followed in India, Denmark and France.

13. Discuss the various ways of classifying the political system and the political parties.

Ans: (i) On the basis of the number of parties:-

- (a) Uni-party system
- (b) Multi-party system

(ii) On the basis of the area of influence:-

- (a) National party
- (b) Regional party or Local party

(iii) On the basis of ideology:-

- (a) Leftist party
- (b) Rightist party

14. Describe one merit and one demerit of the Bi-party system.

Ans: Bi-party system has a stable and powerful government. But in this system, majority party often becomes absolute and does not care for the opposition at all.

15. What is the general view of the people about the political parties?

Ans: Most people tend to be very critical of political parties. They tend to blame political parties for all that is wrong with our democracy and our political life.

16. Why don't parties give enough tickets to women? Is that also due to lack of internal democracy?

Ans: Most of the Indian societies have patriarchal mentality. Men do not want to loose power if the parties give tickets to women, steadily the power will go into women's hands. The patriarchal Indian society is not ready to accept it.

Yes, this is an example of lack of internal democracy.

17. What is meant by an alliance?

Ans: There are three or more political parties in the multi-party system. Each party has the capacity to win the elections and form the government. Sometimes no single party wins the majority and several parties join together to form the government. This is called an alliance.

18. What is meant by the dynastic succession in the political system?

Ans: In any political party the real power is with a few top leaders. All the members are not consulted before taking decisions for the party. The top positions are generally controlled by the members of particular family. Members close to such families get advantage and favours in getting important positions. This is unfair for other members of the party. This is not good for democracy. People from socially weaker sections of the society find it difficult to rise to the top positions.

19. What is the importance of opposition party in a democracy?

Ans: In a democratic set-up, opposition plays a vital role. A good and strong opposition keeps a check on the ruling party. It ensures that the ruling party does not misuse its powers. It also shows the weakness of the ruling party. It keeps a check on the bills and expenditures of the

government. The opposition party ensures that the rights and liberties of people are not curtailed by the government.