



TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

1. Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks.

(a) The First General Elections in 1952 involved simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and.....

(The President of India/State Assemblies/Rajya Sabha/The Prime Minister)

(b) The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first elections was the

(Praja Socialist Party/Bharatiya Jana Sangh/Communist Party of India/Bharatiya Janata Party)

(c) One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was.....

(Working class interest/protection of Princely States/Economy free from State control/Autonomy of States within the Union)

Answer:

(a) State Assemblies

(b) Communist Party of India

(c) Economy free from state control.

2. Match the following

(a) S.A. Dange	(i) Bharatiya Jana sangh
(b) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee	(ii) Swatantra Party
(c) Minoo Masani	(iii) Praja Socialist Party
(d) Asoka Mehta	(iv) Communist Party of India

Answer:

(a)-(iv), (b)-(i), (c)-(w), (d)-(iii)

3. Four statements regarding one-party dominance are given below. Mark each of them as true or false:

(a) One-party dominance is rooted in the absence of strong alternative political parties

(b) One-party dominance occurs because of weak public opinion.

(c) One-party dominance is linked to the nation's colonial past.

(d) One-party dominance reflects the absence of democratic ideals in a country.

Answer:

(a) True

(b) False

(c) True

(d) False

4. If Bharatiya Jana Sangh of the Communist Party of India had formed the government after the first election, in which respects would the policies of the government have been different? Specify

three differences each for both the parties.

Answer:

1. Bharatiya Jana Sangh:

The policies of Bharatiya Jana Sangh were based on the principles as follows:

(a) It replaced secular concept by the ideology of one country, one culture and one nation.

(b) No cultural and educational rights as this party opposed the granting of concessions to religious and cultural minorities.

(c) It focused on the reunification of India and Pakistan under the concept of Akhand Bharat.

2. Communist Party of India:

Communist Party of India would have been different on the principles as follows:

(a) It worked for proportional representation in the government.

(b) This party followed communist ideology in various policies.

(c) It emphasised on a control over electronic mass media by an autonomous body or corporation.

5. In what sense was the Congress an ideological coalition? Mention the various ideological currents present within the Congress.

Answer:

The Congress Party became a social and ideological coalition for it merged different social groups along with their identity holding different beliefs:

1. It accommodated the revolutionary, conservative, pacifist, radical, extremist and moderates and the right and the left with all other shades of the centre.

2. Congress became a platform for numerous groups, interests and even political parties to take part in the national movement.

Ideological currents present within the Congress:

(a) In pre-independence days, many organisations and parties with their own constitutions and organisational structures were allowed to exist within the Congress.

(b) Some of these like "Congress Socialist Party" later separated from the Congress and became an opposition party.

6. Did the prevalence of a 'one-party dominant system' affect adversely the democratic nature of Indian politics?

Answer:

No, the prevalence of one party dominance system did not affect adversely the democratic nature of Indian politics because:

1. The key role of Congress in the freedom struggle gave it a head start over others.

2. The Congress accommodated diversified interests, religion, beliefs and aspirations to strengthen democracy.

3. Despite being taken place of free and fair elections, Congress won elections in the same manner again and again.

4. Congress party consisted of various factions inside itself, based on ideological considerations who never fought together or went out of Congress.

5. Hence, on the basis of above mentioned criterion, it can be concluded that Congress strengthened ideals of democracy and held unity and integrity of the country.

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

Answer: 1. Differences between Socialist Parties and Communist Party:

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

2. Differences between Bharatiya Jana Sangh and Swatantra Party:

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

8. What would you consider as the main differences between Mexico and India under one party domination?

Answer: There was a difference between one party domination in India and Mexico. In Mexico, this was a one party system only not dominance because:

1. In India, the Congress party dominated on behalf of popular consensus but Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) (in Spanish) ruled on behalf of perfect dictatorship.
2. In India, free and fair elections took place, where the losing of election was also fair but in Mexico, elections were based on malpractices, dominated by PRI.

9. Take a political map of India (with State outlines) and mark:
(a) Two states where Congress was not in power at some point

during 1952-67.

(b) Two states where the Congress remained in power through this period.

Answer. Map is attached and marked as:

(a) 1. Kerala (Travancore-Cochin)

2. Madras (Travancore-Cochin)

(b) 1. Punjab or U.P.

2. Rajasthan or West Bengal.

10. Read the following passage:

“Patel, the organisational man of the Congress, wanted to purge the Congress of other political groups and sought to make of it a cohesive and disciplined political party. He ... sought to take the Congress away from its all-embracing character and turn it into a close-knit party of disciplined cadres. Being a realist he looked more for discipline than for took too romantic a view of “earrigng on the movement,” Patel’s idea of transforming the Congress into strictly political party with a single ideology and tight discipline showed an equal lack of understanding of the eclectic role that the Congress, as a government, was to be called upon to perform in the decades to follow.”—Ranjni Kothari - 1

(a) Why does the author think that Congress should not have been a cohesive and disciplined party?

(b) Give some examples of the eclectic role of the Congress party in the early years.

(c) Why does the author say that Gandhi’s view about Congress future was romantic?

Answer:

(a) Because she wanted to take the Congress away from its all embracing character and turn it into a close knit party of disciplined cadeters.

(b) These examples are in the form of social and ideological coalition of Congress:

(i) It provided a platform for numerous groups, interests and even political parties to participate in national movement.

(ii) Congress party represented a rainbow like social coalition representing diversity of India including various castes, religions and languages.

(c) Because Gandhiji believed in hand- in-hand characteristic of national movement led by Congress which attracted various sections groups and society to form a social and ideological coalition in Congress.

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