

□ Very Short Answer Type (1 mark)

1. Which party dominated the first three general elections in India?

□ Indian National Congress

2. Who was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India?

□ Sukumar Sen

3. What is meant by one-party dominance in the context of Indian politics?

□ Dominance of the Indian National Congress in the central and state governments during the first two decades after independence.

4. In which year was the first general election held in India?

□ 1951–52

5. Which two opposition parties gained some popularity in the first three general elections?

□ Socialist Party and Communist Party of India (CPI)

□ Short Answer Type (2–3 marks)

1. State any two reasons why Congress was so dominant after independence.

□

It led the freedom struggle and was seen as the party of national unity.

It had a strong organizational base and presence across India.

2. What is meant by a 'system of one-party dominance'?

□ A political system in which a single party remains in power for a long period by continuously winning elections, without banning opposition.

3. How was the first general election in India significant?

□

It tested India's commitment to democracy.

Introduced universal adult franchise for the first time.

4. Name two leaders of opposition parties in the first general elections.

□

Ram Manohar Lohia (Socialist Party)

E.M.S. Namboodiripad (Communist Party)

□ Long Answer Type (4–5 marks)

1. Describe any four features of the Congress dominance in the first three general elections.

□

Won majority at the center and in most states.

Represented a wide social base and multiple ideologies.

Faced weak and fragmented opposition.

Was internally democratic with several power centers.

2. Differentiate between dominance and monopoly in party systems.

□

Basis Dominance Monopoly

Competition Exists Does not exist

Opposition Present Banned or suppressed

Example Congress in India (1950s–60s) Communist Party in USSR

3. What role did the Congress play in the freedom struggle that helped it dominate politics after independence?

□

Mobilized people against British rule.

Had popular leaders like Nehru, Patel, Gandhi.

Provided leadership in national emergencies.

Was seen as a symbol of unity and integrity.

□ Very Long Answer Type (6 marks or more)

1. Examine the nature of Congress dominance in the first three general elections. Was it democratic?

□

Congress dominance was electoral, not authoritarian.

India had free and fair elections with a multi-party system.

Opposition parties like CPI, Socialists contested and even formed governments in some states.

Congress represented a broad ideological spectrum and had internal debate.

So, it was a democratic dominance, not a monopoly.

2. Analyze the challenges faced by opposition parties in the early years of Indian democracy.

□

Lack of resources and organizational strength

Congress's strong grassroots network

Popularity of Nehru and nationalist leaders

Ideological divisions among opposition

Limited access to media and public platforms

Still, opposition parties helped keep democracy alive, raised critical issues in Parliament, and laid the foundation for future challenges to Congress.

3. What made the 1952 election a landmark in the history of democracy?

□

First ever universal adult franchise election in India

Over 173 million voters, 60+% illiterate

Peaceful, transparent elections

Set the tone for democratic practices in India

Strengthened faith in the electoral process

