



6 Political Parties

Class - X Sub: Political Science [Civics]

Words that Matters:

- 1 Partisan:- A person who is strongly committed to a party, group or faction.
- 2 Ruling Party:- Political party that runs government
- 3 Defection:- Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party.
- 4 Affidavit:- A signed document submitted to an officer, where a person makes a sworn statement regarding her personal information

Q.1 Short Answers

1 What is a political party? What are the components of political party?

Ans. A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.

• A political party has three components:

- a) The leaders
- b) The active members and
- c) The followers.

2 "Political parties play a major role in democracy."
Explain the statement.

Ans • In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidate put up by political parties.

• Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them.

• In a democracy, a large number of similar opinions have to be grouped together to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the government.

• Political parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.

• Parties form and run the governments. Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want.

• Losing parties play the role of opposition to the parties in power, by voicing different views and criticizing government for its failure or wrong policies.

• Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues. Many of the pressure groups are the extensions of political parties.

• Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments.

3 Why are political parties a precondition for democracy? Explain any three reasons

Ans • Every candidate in the elections will be independent. So, no one will be able to make any promise to the people about any major policy changes.

- The government may be formed but its stability will remain ever uncertain.
- 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 be run.

4 Differentiate between mono party and bi-party systems. Give an example.

Mono party system

Bi-Party system

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system in which a single party is permitted to rule. • People are free to form political parties, but it does not happen because the electoral system does not permit free competition for power. • Ex. China | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system in which the power is transferred between only two major parties. • Several parties may exist, contest election and win few seats but only the two main parties have the serious chance of winning majority of seats required to form the governments. • Ex. USA |
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5 What is a Multi-party system? Explain the merits and demerits of Multi party system.

Ans. A party in which more than two parties compete for power and have reasonable chance of coming to power, either on their own strength or in alliance with others, is called Multi-party system.

Merits:— (a) This system allows a variety of interests and opinions.

(b) In this system, people have to make a choice between several candidates

Demerits: - (a) This system very messy.

(b) This system leads to political instability.

6 "No party system is ideal for all countries and in all situations." Justify the statement

Ans

- Party system is not something that country can choose.
- This system 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.
- The party system in a country cannot be changed quickly.
- Sometimes social and geographical diversity also shape the system.
- In large country, for example India, its diverse nature cannot be absorbed by two or even three parties.

7 What is meant by National Parties? State the criteria for recognizing a party as National and state party?

Ans

- Democracies that follow a federal system all over the world tend to have two kinds of political parties. Parties that are present in one of the federal units and parties that are present in several or all units of the federation.
- State Party: - A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in an election to the legislative assembly of a state and wins at least two seats is recognised as a state party.

- National party :- A Party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in the Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognised as a National party.

Long Answers

1 Highlight the main challenges faced by political parties.

Ans. (a) Lack of internal democracy :-

- All over the world there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of powers in one or few leaders at the top.
- Parties do not keep membership register, do not hold organisational meetings and do not conduct internal elections regularly.

(b) Dynastic Succession :-

- Most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning.
- The senior members of the party are in a position of a unfair advantage to favour people close to them or even their family members.

(c) Use of money and muscle power :-

- Parties use money and muscle powers especially during elections. They tend to use shortcuts to win elections.
- Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.

(d) Absence of meaningful choice :-

- Very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters.

• In our country, the differences among all the major parties on the economic policies have reduced. Those who really like different policies have no option available to them.

2 Explain any four Constitutional reforms made to Strengthen the Working of Political Parties.

Ans.

- The constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties or defection.
- The Supreme court made it mandatory for every candidate to file an affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him.
- The election Commission made it necessary for political parties to hold elections and file their income tax returns.
- Now the public has been given the right to information. This is also proved an effective weapon.

3 What is defection? What measures have been taken to curb it?

Ans. In order to gain some favour or power or money, it has been seen that MLA and MPs change their parties. This changing of party by an elected representative is called defection.

Following are the measures taken to curb defection:

- If any MLA/MP changes his/her party, he/she will lose the seat in the legislative assembly.
- This has made any dissent even more difficult.
- MPs and MLAs have to accept whatever the party leaders decide.