

Political Parties

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

Why do we need Political Parties?; How many Parties should we have?

MCQ

1. Which one of the following countries has two party system? (2023)

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) America
- (d) India

VSA (1/2 mark)

2. Differentiate between ruling and opposition parties. (Term-11, 2021-22)

3. Why has India adopted a multi-party system Explain.? (Term-II, 2021-22, Foreign 2017, AI 2016)

4. How do political parties shape public opinion? (Term-II, 2021-22)

5. Give one technical term for the following statement: "A person who is strongly committed to a party or group." (2020 C) 6. Why is one party system not considered a good democratic system? (2016)

7. What is meant by 'Political Party'? (2015)

SAI (3 marks)

8. Explain the merits of Multi Party System. (2023)

9. Explain, how the rise of political parties are directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies. (Term-II, 2021-22)

10. Explain any three features of 'one-party system! (Term-II, 2021-22)

11. What is a political party? State any two points of the ideology of Bhartiya Janata Party. (Foreign 2016) An

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

13. Describe any three main features of two-party system. (2015)

LA (5 marks)

14. "Political parties have become omnipresent in democracies all over the world." Explain the statement with examples. (Term-II, 2021-22)

15. Describe the role of political parties in Indian democracy. (Term-11, 2021-22 C, 2020 C)

OR

Describe any five functions of political party. (2020, 2019 C)

OR

Highlight any functions of political parties to strengthen democracy. (AI 2019)

16. Define the term 'Political Party'. Explain with examples, the need of political parties in India. (2020)

17. What is meant by a political party? Describe the three components of a political party. (AI 2015)

18. "Modern democracies cannot exist without political parties." Examine the statement. (Foreign 2015)

National Political Parties; State Parties

MCQ

19. Which one of the following is a 'National Political Party'? (AI 2014)

- (a) Samajwadi Party
- (b) Rashtriya Janata Dal
- (c) Rashtriya Lok Dal
- (d) Bahujan Samaj Party

20. Which one of the following facilities is offered by the 'Election Commission' to a recognised political party? (Delhi 2014)

- (a) Party name

- (b) Election funds
- (c) Election symbol
- (d) Manifesto

21. Who among the following recognises 'Political Parties' in India? (Foreign 2014)

- (a) Election Commission
- (b) President of India
- (c) Speaker of Lok Sabha
- (d) Supreme Court

VSA (1 mark)

22. Correct the following statement and rewrite it: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was formed under the leadership of Mayawati. (2020)

23. Name any one political party that has national level political organisation but not recognised as the national political party. (AI 2016)

24. Name the alliance formed by the Congress Party. (2016)

25. Which party was the principal opposition party in Lok Sabha in 2004? (2016)

26. What is the requirement laid down by the Election Commission for a political party to be recognized as a 'State Party'? (2015)

27. What is the guiding philosophy of Bharatiya Janata Party? (2015)

28. Name any two regional parties of West Bengal. (2015) R

SAI (3 marks)

29. How are political parties recognised as regional and national parties in India? Explain with examples. (2019)

30. "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)

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

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

33. Name the 'regional political parties' that are predominant in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha respectively with their symbols. (2014)

SA II (4 marks)

34. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Democracies that follow a federal system all over the world tend to have two kinds of political parties : parties that are present in only one of the federal units and parties that are present in several or all units of the federation. This is the case in India as well. 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. Parties that get this privilege and some other special facilities are 'recognised' by the Election Commission for this purpose. That is why these parties 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. A party that secures at least 6 percent 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. 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 recognised as a National party. Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option:

(i) Which one of the following is a National party?

- (a) Bharatiya Janata Party
- (b) Samajwadi Party
- (c) Shiv Sena
- (d) Shiromani Akali Dal

(ii) Which of the following is not a regional party?

- (a) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha
- (b) Asom Gana Parishad
- (c) Indian National Congress

(d) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

(iii) Where does every political party have to register in India?

(a) Government of India

(b) NITI Aayog

(c) Election Commission

(d) Law Commission

(iv) When a party that secures at least six per cent of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and wins at least four seats of Lok Sabha, it is recognised as a : (2021 C)

(a) Regional Party

(b) National Party

(c) Pressure Group

(d) Business Organisation.

Challenges to Political Parties; How can Parties be Reformed?

VSA (1 mark)

35. If all the decisions of a political party are made by single family and all other members are neglected, then what challenge is being faced by that party? (2015)

36. Why do political parties involve partisanship? (2015)

SAI (3 marks)

37. Explain any three challenges faced by Political Parties in India. (2023)

38. "No party system is ideal for all countries and all situations." Justify the statement with arguments. (2016)

39. "Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the political parties." Analyse the (AI 2015)

40. How do money and muscle power play an important role in elections? Explain. statement. (2015)

41. What is mean by 'defection' in democracy? Explain. (2014)

LA (5 marks)

42. "There are various reforms taken to strengthen parties in India so that they perform their function well." Explain the statement with examples. (Term-II, 2021-22)

43. "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)

44. Examine any two institutional amendments made by different institutions to reform political parties and their leaders. (2016)

CBSE Sample Questions

Why do we need Political Parties?; How many Parties should we have?

MCQ

1. Which one among the following pairs is correctly matched?

List I		List II
A.	Bharatiya Janata Party	National Democratic Alliance
B.	Congress Party	Left front
C.	Communist Party of India	Regional Party
D.	Mizo National Front	United Progressive Alliance

- (a) A
- (b) D
- (c) B
- (d) C (2022-23)

VSA (2 marks)

2. Differentiate between one party and two party system. (Term-II, 2021-22)

LA (5 marks)

3. Describe the necessity or utility of political parties in democratic countries. (2022-23)

Challenges to Political Parties; How can Parties be Reformed?

LA (5 marks)

4. Suggest and explain any five ways to reform Political Parties in India. (2020-21)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (c): America
2. The party which gets elected by winning the elections and forms a government is the ruling party. Playing opposition: A party which does not get majority or does not come under the majority coalition, needs to play the role of opposition.
3. India is a democratic country and has adopted a multi-party system because of the social and geographical diversity of the nation which cannot be easily accommodated in one or two political parties. Through this system, variety of interests and opinions could enjoy different political representations.
4. Political parties shape public opinion in the following ways:
 - (i) They highlight and raise issues.
 - (ii) Parties have lakhs of members spread all over the country. Often pressure groups are an extension of political parties, among different sections of the society. They help in taking up issues and forming public opinion.
 - (iii) Sometimes, parties launch movements for solving the problems faced by the people.
5. Partisan
6. This is because 'one party' system does not provide any democratic option.
7. A political party is a group of people, who have come together to contest elections to hold power in the government.
8. Merits of multi-party system are:
 - (i) It allows various interests and opinions to enjoy political participation.
 - (ii) In a diverse country, this system cover all the aspects of different sections of society.

9. When societies develop and expand it becomes, more complex in terms of social, economic and political relations. They need political relations, and political parties to sustain governance. Political parties tend to provide the base on which the policies of representative government is built. They gather public views on various important issues, articulate them and then present them to the government. Parties bring various representatives together, support or restrain the government and its apparatus, develop policies and justify or oppose them in the public domain depending on their political ideology. These conditions are necessary for healthy development or representative democracies. Hence, it can be said that political parties are essential for this purpose.

10. Three features of one party system are as follows:

- (i) Only one party is allowed to control and rule the government. There is no change of government and power is concentrated in the hands of the party leader.
- (ii) In this system electoral politics does not permit free competition for power.
- (iii) There is absence of the checks and balances provided by democratic government.

11. 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. The ideologies of Bharatiya Janata party are

- (a) Cultural Nationalism
- (b) Resloving India's ancient culture and value.

12. Multi-party system:

If several parties compete for power, more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or by alliance with others, we call it a multi-party system. India adopted a multi-party system because:

- (i) There is social and geographical diversity in India.
- (ii) India is such a large country which is not easily represented by two or three parties.
- (iii) The system allows a variety of interests and opinions for political representation.

13. Main features of two-party system are as follow:

- (i) Power usually changes between two parties, though several other parties may exist.
- (ii) In such system, people get clear choice.
- (iii) The party that wins majority forms the government and the other sits in opposition.
- (iv) Strong opposition is good for democracy.
- (v) Prompt decisions are taken and implemented.
- (vi) Promotes more development and less corruption.

14. We need political parties because of the functions that the political parties perform:

- (i) They contest in elections.
- (ii) They put forward different policies and programme for the betterment of society.
- (iii) They play a decisive role in the making of laws that affect each of us.
- (iv) They form and run the government.
- (v) They play the role of opposition to the ruling party.
- (vi) They shape public opinion, as they raise and highlight issues.
- (vii) They provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by the government.

15. Indian democracy has a multi-party system, political parties perform a series of functions to strengthen our democracy in the following manners:

- (i) Contesting elections: Political parties contest elections. A political party nominates its candidate for the electoral contest in various constituencies. This provides a variety of choice of personalities for the people to vote for.
- (ii) Policies Political parties put forward different policies and programmes so that the voters can choose from amongst them. A political party brings a large number of similar opinions under one umbrella. These opinions are channelised to form policies and programmes. The policies and programmes of the ruling party generally become the government policies.
- (iii) Making law: Political parties play a decisive role in making laws for the country that benefits the whole population.
- (iv) Playing opposition: A party which does not get majority or does not come under the majority coalition, needs to play the role of opposition. This forms

the basis of checks and balances in a democracy.

(v) Shaping public opinion: Political parties shape public opinion. They do so by raising and highlighting issues in the legislature and in the media.

(vi) Providing access to government machinery: Political parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments. Parties need to be responsive to people's needs and demands thus bring good governance. Political parties are as easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy. For most ordinary citizens, democracy is equal to political parties.

16. Political parties: A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. Need of Political Parties in India:

(i) The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies.

(ii) As societies became large and complex, they also needed some agency to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government.

(iii) They needed some ways, to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government could be formed.

(iv) They needed a mechanism to support or restrain the government, make policies, justify or oppose them.

(v) Political parties fulfill these needs that every representative government has.

17. Political party: A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. Political parties take up policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good. The political party tries to persuade people why their policies are better than other parties, and tries to win the support of people. Three components of a political party:

(i) The leaders: Every political party has some prominent leaders who formulate policies and programmes of the party and choose candidates for contesting elections.

(ii) The active members: They are involved in different committees of the party and participate directly in the party activities.

(iii) The followers: They believe in the party's ideology and support the party by casting their votes in favour of the party at the time of election.

18. In all the democracies, citizens have rights but they should be able to claim these rights.

(i) When the elected political parties become the ruling party then they give these rights to the citizens legally and practically.

(ii) In all the democracies, people need good governance, for this we need political parties which contest in elections.

(iii) The society needs rapid development, this work is done by the political parties. They can introduce many new policies and programmes for the welfare of the citizens.

(iv) The opposition political party also plays a vital role by finding mistakes in the work of the ruling party so that the development stays on course.

(v) If there were no political parties in such cases we would only have independent candidates contesting election with individual agenda and not a national agenda.

(vi) The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies. Large societies need a way to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government could be formed. We can say that parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.

19. (d): Bahujan Samaj Party

20. (c) : Election symbol

21. (a) Election Commission

22. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was formed under the leadership of Kanshi Ram.

23. Samajwadi party, Samata Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal

24. United Progressive Alliance-UPA

25. Bharatiya Janata Party

26. A political 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 recognized as a state party.

27. (i) Cultural nationalism

(ii) Restoring India's ancient culture and values

28. Marxist Forward Bloc, and All India Forward Bloc.

29.

	National Political Parties	State Parties
(i)	A party that secures at least six per cent of total votes in 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.	A party that secures at least 6 per cent 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.

(ii)	Now, India has seven recognised national parties.	There are 54, state recognised parties in India.
(iii)	Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Janta Party	Biju Janta Dal, Mizo National Front

30. State parties seeking national level coalition: Before general election of 2014, in three general elections not one national party was able to secure a majority on its own in Lok Sabha. Thus the national parties were compelled to form alliances with state or regional parties. Since 1996, nearly every one of the state parties has got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government. This has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy.

31. A regional political party is a party that is present in only some states. Conditions required for a party to be recognised as a regional political party are:

(i) A party that secures at least six percent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State.

(ii) Wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly.

32. National political parties have units in the various states, they follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level.

Conditions required:

(i) A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in general elections of Lok Sabha or assembly elections in four states.

(ii) Wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha.

33. Jharkhand-JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (Bow and Arrow) Maharashtra-Shiv Sena (Bow and Arrow) Odisha-BJD-Biju Janata Dal (Conch)

34. (i) (a): Bharatiya Janata Party

(ii) (c): Indian National Congress

(iii) (c): Election Commission

(iv) (b): NITI Aayog

35. Challenge of dynastic succession

36. Because they are part of the party, hence political parties involve partisanship.

37. (i) Lack of internal democracy: In most of the political parties, the power is concentrated in the hands of one or few leaders. Ordinary members of the party cannot even dream of rising to the top as there are no internal elections.

(ii) No records: There are hardly any records of registered members. The top leadership is often disconnected with the grassroots workers. Loyalty to the policies and principles of the party has less value than the loyalty to the top leadership.

(iii) Dynastic succession: The top positions in many political parties are usually controlled by members of one family. A person born in a particular family becomes the leader by virtue of his birth; which is not the sign of a healthy democracy. This is not the case in India alone, but in many other countries as well.

38. No party system is ideal for all countries and all situations because:

(i) Party system is not something, any country can choose.

(ii) It evolves over a long period depending on the nature of the society.

(iii) Its social and regional division, its history of policies and its system of elections also play a role.

(iv) Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances.

39. Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the political parties because:

(i) Most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning.

(ii) There is no way for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party.

(iii) In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family.

(iv) This practice is unfair to other members of that party and is also bad for democracy.

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(iv) This practice is unfair to other members of that party and is also bad for democracy.

40. Money and muscle power play an important role in elections because:

(i) Parties tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise large amounts of money.

(ii) Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.

- (ii) In some cases, parties support criminals who can win election.
- (iv) Democrats all over the world are worried over the increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics.

41. Defection in politics means moving of a person from one party to another party for some personal benefit. It means changing party allegiance from the party on which the person got elected to a different party. The anti- defection rule prevents it.

42.

Some reforms taken to strengthen parties in India so that they can perform their function well, are:-

1. **ANTI-DEFLECTION LAW.** Defection refers to changing party alliance from the party on which one got elected to another party.
 - (i) The law was changed in order to prevent MPs and MLAs from changing party alliance to become ministers or for cash rewards.
 - (ii) Any MP or MLA who changes party alliance loses his / her seat in the legislature.
 - (iii) While this has strengthened democracy it has also made dissent more difficult.

2. **AFFIDAVIT:** (i) Affidavit is a signed document submitted to an officer in which the person makes a sworn statement regarding his/her personal information.
- (ii) The Supreme Court passed an order making it compulsory for the elected representatives to file an affidavit, stating their educational qualifications and the criminal cases pending against them.
- (iii) This has promoted transparency as well as reduced the influence of money and crime in politics.

3. **INCOME TAX:** An order was passed to make it compulsory for parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.

4. **INTERNAL AFFAIR REGULATION:** Political parties must:

- (i) maintain a register of their members
- (ii) have their own formal constitution
- (iii) act as a judge in case of internal disputes independent
- (iv) have an internal authority
- (v) hold open and transparent elections to the highest posts.

5. **RESERVATION:** About one-third seats should be reserved for women candidates.

6. **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:** The governments should provide support to parties for election campaigns in cash or kind.

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION: People can help strengthen political parties by:

- (i) protests and rallies
- (ii) joining parties themselves

43. All over the world, people express strong dissatisfaction with the failure of political parties to perform their functions well. This statement can be described on the following grounds:

- (i) Lack of internal democracy: Power often concentrates in the hands of one or few leaders at the top of a party. Since parties are not usually involved in keeping track of regular activities, ordinary citizens who are members of the party, do not get much information of what is actually happening.
- (ii) Dynastic succession: Moreover, the top positions in many parties are controlled by members of one family who tend to favour people close to them or their family members in giving positions of power. This tendency is harmful to the functioning of parties as well as the democracy.
- (iii) The role of money and muscle power: Since the main aim of the parties is to win elections, they often use short-cuts in doing so. For example - they nominate candidates who have or can raise lots of money or they may support criminals who can easily win the elections.
- (iv) Lack of meaningful choices: The decline in the ideological difference between parties in recent times does not offer a meaningful choice to the voters as there is not much difference in the policies and programmes of the various political parties.

44. (i) The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLA's and MP's from changing parties. This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in defection in order to become ministers or for cash rewards. Now, if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she loses the seat in the legislature or the parliament.

(ii) The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. But there is no system to check if the information given by the candidates is true and complete.

(iii) The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational elections and file their income tax returns.

(iv) The parties have started doing so but sometimes it is mere formality. It is not clear if this step has led to greater internal democracy in political parties.

(any two)

CBSE Sample Questions

1. (a): A-Bhartiya Janata Party - National Democratic Alliance

B- Congress Party - United Progressive Alliance

C- Communist Party of India - Left front

D- Mizo National Front - Regional Party

2. (a) One Party System (1)

(i) Countries where only one party is allowed to control and run the government are called one party system.

(ii) Eg. In China only Communist Party is allowed to rule.

(b) Two Party System

(i) Countries where only two main parties contest elections are called two party system.

(ii) The United States of America and United Kingdom are examples of two party system.

3. "Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy" because: (2)

(i) Without political parties, democracy cannot exist.

(ii) If we do not have political parties; in such a situation every candidate in elections will be independent and will have a local point of view.

(iii) No one will be able to make any promises to the people about any major policy changes.

(iv) The government may be formed but its utility will remain uncertain.

(v) 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.

(vi) The role of opposition party in a democracy necessitates the existence of political parties.

(vii) As societies become large and complex they also need some agencies to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government, that's why political parties are needed.

(Any five points to be explained) (5 × 1)

4. (i) A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.

(ii) It should be made compulsory for political parties to maintain a register of its members.

(iii) It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum

number of tickets; about 1/3rd to its women candidates.

(iv) There should be a quota for women in the decision- making bodies of the party.

(v) There should be state funding of elections.

(vi) Vote casting should be made compulsory in each election.

(Any five points to be explained) (5 x 1)