

Political Parties

6

Very Short Answer Type Questions _____ (1 mark each)

Q. 1. Suggest any one way to make political parties more responsive to the people's need and demand.

OR

Suggest any one way to promote the public participation in the Political Parties for enhancing the quality of democracy. [CBSE OD, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. By electing only those political parties who work for the welfare of the people.

OR

Party should be asked to reserve at least one third of the seats for women candidates. In the same way women should have their share in the party's decision making bodies so that steps can be taken for the betterment of women.

Q. 2. Explain the meaning of 'Political Party.' [CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 2, 2017]

Ans. A 'political party' is a group of people with same ideology. It aims to attain power in the government through the elections.

Q. 3. Why did India adopt multi-party system? [CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. India adopted multi-party system due to its huge socio-cultural diversity, varying geography and due to its huge population with different religions. It is not possible to accommodate such variations in one single party. So, there are multiple parties present in India.

Q. 4. Name any one political party that has national level political organisation but is not recognised as the national political party. [CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Samajwadi party.

Q. 5. Why do political parties involve partisanship? [CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. Parties are a part of the society and thus they involve partisanship.

Q. 6. What is the guiding philosophy of Bharatiya Janata Party? [CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 2, 2015]

Ans. The guiding philosophy of Bharatiya Janata Party is Cultural Nationalism or India's ancient culture and values.

Q. 7. If all the decisions of a political party are made by a single family and all other members are neglected, then what challenge is being faced by then party? [CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. The challenge of dynastic succession is being face by that party.

Q. 8. What is meant by a Political Party? [CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 2, 2015]

Ans. A political party is a group of persons organized to acquire and exercise political power. The party comes up with some proposed policies and programmes, with a view of promoting the collective good for the society

Q. 9. Name any two regional parties of West Bengal. [CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 3, 2015]

Ans. The regional parties of West Bengal are:
(i) All India Forward Bloc.
(ii) Revolutionary Socialist Party.
(iii) Trinamool Congress.

Short Answer Type Questions-II _____ (3 marks each)

Q. 1. How are political parties recognised as regional and national parties in India? Explain with examples.

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2019]

Ans. Democracies that follow a federal system all over the world tend to have two kinds of political parties. Parties that are pres-

ent in only one of the federal units and parties that are present in several or all units of the national level. Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission. Parties that get a unique symbol and some other special facilities are 'recognized' by the Election

Commission for this purpose. That is why these parties are called, 'recognized political parties'. A party that secures at least six percent 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.' For example – Trinamool Congress, Shiv sena, DMK etc. A party that secures at least six percent of the 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.' For example, BJP, Indian National Congress.

Q. 2. Explain the three components of 'political party.' [CBSE Delhi, Set 2, 2019]

- Ans.**
- (i) **Leader:** A leader is the one who takes the major decisions of the party and his decision is the supreme command for the party. He contests elections and performs the administrative job.
 - (ii) **Active Members:** Another component of political party are the active members who contest elections for the party and are elected as representatives. They are the ones, who climb the ladder from being the follower and become the assistants of the leaders to gain knowledge about the politics.
 - (iii) **Followers:** The last one are the followers who support a political party and in elections make their party victorious. They are simply the ardent followers of the leaders and work under the able guidance of the active members.

Q. 3. Explain any three functions of opposition political parties. [CBSE Delhi, Set 3, 2019]

- Ans.** The Opposition's main role is to question the government of the day and hold them accountable to the public. In legislature, the Opposition Party has a major role and must act to discourage the party in power from acting against the interests of the country and the common man. They hustle to present themselves as a suitable alternative government.

Following are the three functions of opposition parties:

- (i) They question the ruling government and make them accountable to the public.
- (ii) Their role is to ensure that the government should not take any step which is against the interest of the public.
- (iii) Their duty is to check and ensure that the action of the ruling party is for the benefit of the masses and to support the government in such things. They, thus, facilitate formation of public opinion and are a way in which the schemes of government are checked and communicated to the public.

Q. 4. Analyse the role of opposition political parties in democracy. [CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 3, 2017]

- Ans.** Opposition political parties play an important role in democracy. They play both positive and negative roles.

Positive Role:

- (i) They ensure that political party, in power does not, abuse or misuse its power.
- (ii) It exposes the weaknesses of ruling party.
- (iii) It keeps a close vigil on the bills and expenditure of government.

Negative Role:

- (i) It targets the government and aims at lodging and discrediting the government for all the ills and troubles that people face.
- (ii) Through stalling the proceedings of the parliament, dharnas and gheravs, it curtails the progress of the country.
- (iii) Sometimes, opposition party opposes every decision of the ruling party whether it is in the favour of the nation or not.

Q. 5. What is meant by regional political party? State the conditions required to be recognised as a 'regional political party'. [CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

- Ans.** Regional Political Party exists, operates and functions at the regional level. It gives prominence to regional issues, specific problems of the region and it has influence only on the people of that region. It lays more stress on regional culture identity,

which it wants to preserve and promote.

Conditions required to be recognised as a regional political party are:

- (i) It should have polled at least 6% valid votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly.
- (ii) It has reached in at least three states in last general election.
- (iii) It had won at least two seats in Legislative Assembly elections.

Q. 6. Which three challenges do you feel are being faced by political parties in India? Give your opinion.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Political parties face the following challenges:

- (i) **Money and muscle power:** Candidates who can raise money are nominated, such powers are visible during the time of elections.
- (ii) **Dynastic succession:** Leaders on top have the unfair chance of favouring their families and friends, thus the top positions end up being controlled by families.
- (iii) **Parties do not offer a meaningful choice to voters:** There is not much difference among parties and yet they tend to form different parties, resulting in bad choices for the voters.

Q. 7. What is meant by a 'national political party'? State the conditions required to be a national political party.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. 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 political party is called a national party if:

- (i) It secures at least six per cent (6%) of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly;
- (ii) In addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.

Q. 8. '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.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 3, 2016]

Ans. State parties want to get an opportunity to be a part of coalition because before the general election of 2014, no national party was able to secure on its own majority in the Lok Sabha. As a result, the national parties were forced to form alliances with state or regional parties. This has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy.

Q. 9. "Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the political parties." Analyse the statement.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. Dynastic succession is one of the major problems of the political parties and it has the following implications—

In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by the members of one family. This is unfair to other members of the party. This is also against the democracy, since people who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power. It hinders the participation of people from the grass root level who do not have any political lineage. It promotes favouritism. It is detrimental to the democratic principles and inner party democracy.

Q. 10. How do money and muscle power play an important role in elections? Explain.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 2, 2015]

Ans. Money and Muscle power play an important role in elections because:

- (i) Role of money and muscle power in parties especially, during elections is growing.
- (ii) Parties tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money.
- (iii) Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.

Q. 11. What is a multi-party system? Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. The type of democracy which has more than two parties and offer a number of options for the people to choose their leaders is called a multi-party system. India has adopted it because:

- (i) It allows governing of such a large country like-India which has so much of diversity.
- (ii) It involves better competition during elections and better working in the long term.
- (iii) It gives us the spirit of democracy.

A multi-party system is true to the spirit of democracy. Without multi-party system democracy cannot be established fully in any country.

Q. 12. "Lack of internal democracy within parties is the major challenge to political parties all over the world." Analyse the statement.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. Lack of internal democracy in Political Parties is the major challenge to political parties as:

- (i) All over the world, there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.
- (ii) Parties do not keep membership registers do not conduct meetings and do not contest elections regularly.
- (iii) Do not hold organizational meetings.
- (iv) Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information.
- (v) One or few leaders exercise prominent power in the party.



Long Answer Type Questions _____ (5 marks each)

Q. 1. Describe the necessity of political parties in democratic countries.

OR

Describe the efforts to reform political parties in India.

[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. The reasons for the necessity of the political parties in India are given below:

- (i) Modern democracies cannot exist without political parties. The necessity of a political party in democracy can be understood from the given points.

If every elected representative is independent, and then no one can make promise for any major policy changes. The government may be formed but its utility will remain always uncertain. Non-party based Panchayat election also creates same problems.

- (ii) The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies. As society became larger and complicated, they also need some agency to gather dif-

ferent views on various issues and to present these to the government.

- (iii) Political parties inform the people about the working of the ruling party. They discuss the problems of the state, the working and failure of the government and give suggestion for the upliftment of masses.
- (iv) Political party acts as a link between government and masses.
- (v) Political parties form and run governments. The executive body is formed by people from the ruling party. Various political leaders are assigned different ministries to carry out the task of governance.

OR

Ans. The following efforts have been made to reform political parties in India :

- (i) Supreme Court has helped in reducing the influence of criminals and money in elections. It is now mandatory for every person contesting the election to give an affidavit regarding his wealth and criminal cases pending against him. With this peo-

ple can acquire information about their leaders and this has also led to decline in criminalisation of politics.

- (ii) These days no one can change his/her party after Anti Defection law was passed in the Parliament. Amendment was made in the constitution to prevent MPs and MLAs from changing parties. If anyone tries to change his/her party, he/she loses his/her seat.
- (iii) Election Commission has also ordered all political parties to hold their organisational elections and file the income tax returns for the purpose of introducing internal democracy. Parties have started to do so formally.
- (iv) Regulating internal affairs in the party should be made compulsory. Registers of the existing members should be made. All parties should follow their constitution and regular elections should be held for the higher post of the party.
- (v) State should provide funds for contesting elections. It can be either given in the form of cash or in the form of petrol, paper, telephone, etc. This may reduce the influence of money in the elections.

Q. 2. Describe any five functions of political party. [CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2020]

Q. 4. Describe the role of political parties in modern democracy. [CBSE Delhi, Set 2, 2020]

OR

Explain the role of Political Parties in a democracy.

[CBSE, 2019]

Ans. The five functions of political party are given below:

- (i) They contest election through their candidates and these candidates are chosen by the top leaders or by the members of the party.
- (ii) They campaign for themselves during the election process.
- (iii) The political party, which is selected by the voters of the democratic system, plays an important role in making the laws of the country.
- (iv) The political parties recruit different leaders, train them and make them ministers of different departments.
- (v) A political party is a link between the government and the people. The general public can easily approach the local leader than the government official.

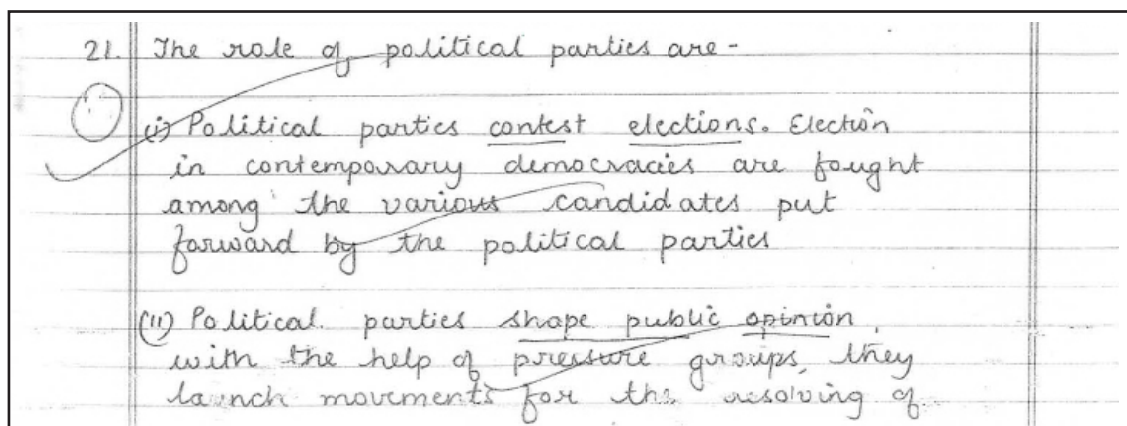
Q. 3. Describe the role of opposition party in democracy. [CBSE Delhi, Set 3, 2020]

Ans. The role of opposition party in democracy is given below :

- (i) Constructive criticism of government.
- (ii) Putting restriction of arbitrariness of ruling party.
- (iii) Safeguarding liberty and right of people.
- (iv) It is an alternative.
- (v) Expression of public opinion.



Topper's Answers



	the problems faced by the public.
(iii)	Political parties put forward policies and programme. People make choices on the basis of these
(iv)	Political parties form and run the government. The major policies for the government comes from the political party that won the election.
(v)	Parties that lose the elections form the opposition. They criticise the government for its failures, point out faults and mobilise opposition to the government.
(vi)	Political parties play a major role in decision making. They recruit leaders, train them and appoint them as ministers.

Q. 5. What is a political party? Explain any four characteristics of a political party.

[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2019]

Ans. Political party is an organised group of people having common ideology and its aim is to contest elections and come to power.

Four characteristics of political parties are given below:

- (i) Political parties seek control over the government through the process of election.
- (ii) Parties run the government. They ensure that a country is governed as per set ideologies.
- (iii) Parties frame their own policies in the form of manifestos which includes their vision on the basis of which they would establish governance in the country.
- (iv) Political parties make laws and policies for the country. Members of the legislature belongs to various political parties and are guided by party ideologies.
- (v) Parties give representation to diverse interest in society and give recognition to minorities.
- (vi) A political party has a leader, active members and followers who support the party.

Q. 6. Explain any five functions of the ruling party.

[CBSE OD, Set 2, 2019]

Ans. Functions of Ruling Party are follows:

- (i) A ruling party is one which has anchored dominant part in elections and has framed the legislature. Ruling party guarantees that the nation keeps running according to set belief systems and projects.
- (ii) Ruling Party offers portrayal to different enthusiasm for society, they offer acknowledgment to minorities and give access to individuals to government machinery. The nationals can likewise vent their complaints to nearby local party leaders regarding any arrangement and its execution.
- (iii) Party in the power reassures and makes individuals mindful about its welfare plans, it encourages individuals to think about its accomplishments, its plan and profit and its advantages.
- (iv) It establishes foreign relations and decide the foreign policy of the country. Thus, the future and the reputation of the country is upheld by them.
- (v) Ruling Party organises schemes and campaigns for the welfare of the

people. It makes schemes for the development of society both culturally and economically.

Q. 7. Explain any five needs to have political parties in a democratic country.

[CBSE OD, Set 3, 2019]

Ans. Political party is an organised group of people having common ideology and its aim is to contest elections and come to power.

Political parties are very important because:

- (i) Parties frame their own policies in the form of manifestos which includes their vision on the basis of which they would establish governance in the country.
- (ii) Existence of political parties in a representative democracy ensures

that the country runs as per its policies and ideologies and has a responsible accountable government which is answerable to the people.

- (iii) Parties give representation to diverse interests in the society, they give recognition to minorities, thus ensuring an all round development of the country.
- (iv) Parties help in forming and shaping public opinion. This educates the people politically and helps them spread awareness regarding their rights and duties.
- (v) Political parties form links between the government administrators of the country and the common people. Their needs and aspirations are conveyed to them through these parties.

Q. 8. Describe any five major functions of political parties performed in a democracy.

[CBSE, 2018]



Topper's Answers

<u>Introduction</u>	Political parties perform many crucial functions in democracy.
(a)	It contest elections. Parties choose candidates to contest elections. The process of choosing candidates varies eg:- In USA, party members choose the candidates while in India top party leaders choose.
(b)	It puts forward policies and programmes and people choose from them. They pile up the similar opinions into major stance that the parties support usually on the line of ruling party.

(c)	They make laws. Legislature makes laws since majority of the members are from a party, they go by the lines parties take. Moreover, they train and make people (party members) leader which constitute the executive.
(d)	They influence play the role of opposition. The parties which lose elections form opposition, criticising govt policies and wrong decisions. Mobilise public support against them.
(e)	They make govt machinery and welfare schemes accessible to people. People feel close to parties than govt officials.
	Conclusion :- Parties perform crucial roles in democracy.

Ans. Functions of Political Parties:

- (i) Candidates are put forward by political parties to contest elections. These candidates may be chosen by the top leaders or by members of the party. In some countries like USA, members and supporters of a party choose its candidate.
- (ii) Parties put forward their policies and programmes for voters to choose from them. A government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the ruling party (Political party then runs government).
- (iii) Political parties play a major role in making laws for the country. No law can become a bill unless majority parties support it.
- (iv) Political parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes. It is easy for the public to approach their local party leader than a government officer. The local party leader has to listen to the public demand, otherwise people can reject them in the next elections.
- (v) Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues. Parties sometimes also launch movements

for the resolution of the problem faced by the people.

Q. 9. "It is very difficult to reform politics through legal ways." Evaluate the statement. [CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. We agree that it is very difficult to reform politics through legal ways. It is very tempting to think of legal ways of reforming politics, to think of new laws to ban undesirable things, but this temptation needs to be resisted. No doubt, law has an important role to play in political reform. Carefully devised changes in law can help discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. But legal constitutional changes by themselves cannot overcome challenges to democracy. This is like the rule of cricket. A change in rules for LBW decisions helped to reduce negative batting tactics. But the improvement is possible mainly by combined efforts by the players, coaches and administrators. Similarly, democratic reforms are to be carried out mainly by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.

Q. 10. Suggest any five effective measures to reform political parties.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 2, 2017, 2016, 2015]

Ans. Following are the five effective measures to reform political parties:

- (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 woman candidates.
- (iv) There should be a quota for woman in the decision making bodies of the parties.
- (v) The government should give parties money to support their election expenses in kind, for example petrol, paper, phone bill, etc.

Q. 11. "No party system is ideal for all countries and in all situations." Analyse the statement.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 3, 2017]

Ans. 'No party system is ideal for all countries and in all situations'. This statement can be justified as follows:

- (i) All countries and democracies have different social situations, economic achievements and culture and thus different political situations leading to different party systems.
- (ii) Party system is not anything that a country can choose. It evolves gradually and slowly depending on the situations in the country.
- (iii) Party system depends on the country's social and regional differences, its history of politics and elections system.
- (iv) India has evolved a multiparty system because its regional and geographical differences are not easily absolved by even two parties.
- (v) But not all countries have such diversity and so may not need multiparty systems. In such countries, a two party system may be enough for the representation of various communities. Thus, no party system is ideal for all countries and in all situations.

Q. 12. Analyse the main functions of 'Political Parties.'

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 2, 2017, 2015]

Ans. 'Political Parties' perform the following functions in a democracy:

- (i) Parties contest elections: In most of the democratic countries, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by the political parties. Parties select their candidates in different ways in India. Top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.
- (ii) Parties put forward different policies and programmes: Each one may have different opinion and views on what policies are suitable for society. In democracy, large number of similar opinions are grouped together to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the government. Making these policies is the function of political parties. The government is expected to make its policies on the time taken by the ruling party.
- (iii) Parties make laws for the country: Though laws are passed by the legislature but since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the direction of party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinions.
- (iv) Parties form and run government: Political parties recruit leaders, train them and make them ministers to run the government in the way they want.
- (v) Parties play role of the opposition to the parties in power: They voice different views and criticise government for its failures or wrong policies. Opposition parties also mobilise opposition to the government.
- (vi) Parties shape public opinion: They shape public opinion by raising and highlighting issues. They do these through pressure groups, which are the extensions of political parties and also launch movements for resolutions of problems faced by the people.
- (vii) Parties provide people access to government welfare schemes: For an ordinary citizen, it is easier to approach a local party leader than a government officer. They feel close to party even if they do not fully trust them.

Even parties have to be responsive to the people's needs and demands otherwise people can reject the parties in next elections.

Q. 13. Examine the main 'challenges' before 'political parties.'

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 3, 2017]

Ans. The major challenges posed before political parties are as follows:

- (i) Lack of internal democracy: ordinary members do not get sufficient information about what is going on within the party. The leader has greater power and tend to rule the party.
- (ii) Dynastic succession: Generally, members of a family tend to rule the party. Eg: Nehru (Gandhi) family rule the congress party.
- (iii) Money and muscle power: As parties are only interested in winning power they nominate those candidates who have or can raise a lot of money such as Rich people, businessmen and criminals.
- (iv) They do not offer meaningful choice to the voters as many parties are different in their policies and ideologies. Sometimes, people cannot even elect different leaders as same set of leaders keep changing their parties.
- (v) Casteism and religion in politics by parties: When one religion is pitted against another, by the political parties, this is called communalism or communal politics. Some parties or politicians promote the cause of the majority religious group at the cost of minorities. This produces a dangerous trend of majority tyranny.

Q. 14. "Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy". Analyse the statement with examples.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Political parties are necessary for democracy due to the following reasons:

- (i) They provide voters with alternative ways of governance and economic management on which the voters can exercise choice.
- (ii) They provide candidates in elections who, if victorious, go to the legislature to make laws.

- (iii) They provide the leaders who form the government to run the administration.

- (iv) They also form the opposition in the legislature to act as a check on the government.

- (v) These parties provide a means for the general people to make their voices heard in the legislature and government. They represent the people in the legislature and ensure that laws are passed to reflect the will of the general people.

Q. 15. "All over the world, people express their dissatisfaction with the failure of political parties to perform their functions well." Analyse the statement with arguments.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 2, 2016]

Ans. We need political parties on account of the functions they perform:

- (i) They draw together those people who have similar political philosophies and ideas.
- (ii) In the parliamentary arena, political parties provide the government and the opposition.
- (iii) They also lend organisational support. The party machine, also known as the extra-parliamentary wing of the party, is responsible for organising and financing election campaigns, developing policies and recruiting members.
- (iv) They articulate philosophies and develop policies for the betterment of the people.
- (v) They are one of the main topics for political debate and discussion in the community.

However, political parties fail to perform their functions because of the following challenges faced by them:

- (i) Internal organisation formation.
- (ii) Dynastic succession.
- (iii) Use of fair means to get good outcomes.
- (iv) Failure in offering meaningful and ideological options.
- (v) Maintenance of democracy within the parties.

(vi) Control on the use of money and muscle means.

(vii) Offer meaningful choices to the people of the country.

Q. 16. What is meant by a political party? Describe the three components of a political party.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. A political party is a group of people who come together to contest election and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good. There are different views on what is good for the society and people. Even their policies are better than parties, and tries to win the support of people.

A political party has three components: the leaders, the active members and the followers.

(i) The leaders: Every Political party has come prominent leaders who formulate policies and programmes for the party and choose candidates for contesting elections. Those who administrative job.

(ii) The active members: They are involved in different committees of the party and participate directly in their activity. They are the ones, who climb a ladder from being the follower and become the assistant of the leaders to gain knowledge about the politics.

(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. They are simply the ardent follower of the leaders and work under the able guidance of the active members.