

Political Parties

Question 1.

What is meant by a political party? (2015 D, 2015 OD)

Answer:

Political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and to hold power in the government. They agree on some policies to promote collective good. They seek to implement those policies by winning popular support through elections. Thus political parties tend to fill political offices and exercise political power.

Question 2.

What are the three main components of a political party? (2011 OD)

Answer:

- 1 The leaders;
- 2 The active members; and
- 3 The followers

Question 3.

How many parties are needed in any democratic system to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for the competing parties to come to power? (2012 D)

Answer:

At least two parties.

Question 7.

What is a recognised political party? (2011 D)

Answer:

A recognised political party is a party, recognised by the 'Election Commission' with all the privileges and facilities.

Question 8.

What does Universal Adult Suffrage stand for? (2013 OD)

Answer:

Universal Adult suffrage stands for the 'Right to Vote'.

Question 9.

Given one point of difference between a pressure group and a political party. (2013 OD)

Answer:

A pressure group is an organized or unorganized body that seeks to promote its interests while a political party is a body that seeks to attain political power by contesting elections.

Question 10.

Which special privilege is given to recognised political parties by the Election Commission? (2014 D)

Answer:

RPP are given a special election symbol. Only official candidates of that party can use the election symbol.

Question 11.

Name the national political party which draws inspiration from the teachings of Sahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Naicker and Babasaheb Ambedkar. (2014 OD)

Answer:

Bahujan Samaj Party.

Question 16.

Why did India adopt multi-party system? Give reasons. (2016 OD, 2013 D)

Answer:

India adopted multi-party system because:

- India is a large country and has social and geographical diversities.
- It is easy to absorb different diversities in a multi-party system.

Question 17.

Why do political parties involve partisanship? (2016 OD)

Answer:

Partisanship is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue. Parties reflect fundamental political divisions in a society. Parties are a part of the society and they involve partisanship.

Question 22.

Describe the three components of a political party. (2014 D, 2015 OD)

Answer:

Components of a political party are:

- 1 The leaders,
- 2 active members and
- 3 the followers.

○ The leaders are recruited and trained by parties. They are made ministers to run the government. The big policy decisions are taken by the political executives that come from the political parties.

○ Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread over the country. Many of the pressure groups are the extensions of political parties among different sections of society. But since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the direction of the party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinion.

○ The followers are the ordinary citizens, who believe in the policies of their respective party and give popular support through elections. Often the opinion of the followers crystallise on the lines parties take.

Question 24.

“Lack of internal democracy within parties is the major challenge to political parties all over the world”. Analyse the statement. (2015 D)

Answer:

1 Most political parties do not practise open and transparent procedures for their functioning like maintaining membership registers, holding organisational meetings or conducting internal elections regularly. Thus, ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on the happenings in the party and have no means to influence the decisions.

2 Also, there are very few chances for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party. Since one or, at the most, a few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who disagree with the leadership, find it difficult to continue in the party.

3 Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position to take undue advantage and favour people close to them or even their family members. And, in many parties, the top positions are invariably controlled by members of one family which is bad for democracy

Question 30.

Explain any five suggestions to reform political parties in India. (2011 D)

Or

Suggest and explain any five effective measures to reform political parties. (2016 OD, 2015 OD)

Answer:

Five suggestions made to reform the political parties:

1 Law to regulate the internal affairs of political parties like maintaining a register of its members, to follow its own constitution, to have independent authority, to act as judge in case of party dispute, to hold open elections to the highest post.

2 It should be mandatory for political parties to give one-third tickets to women candidates. Also there should be quota for women on the decision-making bodies of the party.

3 There should be state funding of elections. The government should give money to parties to support their election expenses in kind (petrol, paper, telephone, etc.) or in cash on the basis of votes secured by the party in the previous election.

4 The candidate should be educated, so that he can solve and understand people's problems. His previous record should be cleared. He should be honest and there should be no criminal case against him.

5 Citizens can reform politics if they take part directly and join political parties. People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity in media, agitations etc.