

Political Parties Class 10 Notes

Summary and MCQs

Meta Description: Master the Political Parties Class 10 Civics chapter. Get expert NCERT notes, detailed summary, important questions, and MCQs for Board Exam 2025-26.

Introduction to Political Parties

The chapter **Political Parties** is a fundamental part of the Class 10 Political Science curriculum. It explains why we need parties in a democracy, their functions, and how they operate in the Indian context.

Understanding **Political Parties** is essential for students to grasp how citizens participate in governance. This guide provides comprehensive material, including **Political Parties Class 10 notes** and exam-oriented questions to ensure high scores.

Short Notes: Political Parties

- **Meaning:** A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
 - **Components:** Every party has three key components: The leaders, the active members, and the followers.
 - **Partisanship:** A person who is strongly committed to a party and unable to take a balanced view on an issue.
 - **Functions:** Contesting elections, putting forward policies, making laws, and forming/running the government.
 - **Role of Opposition:** Parties that lose elections play the role of opposition by voicing different views and criticizing government failures.
 - **Party Systems:** Democracies follow different systems—One-party system (China), Two-party system (USA/UK), and Multi-party system (India).
 - **National vs. State Parties:** Criteria set by the Election Commission determine if a party is recognized at the national or state level.
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Detailed Summary of Political Parties

The chapter **Political Parties** starts by highlighting the visibility of parties in a democracy. For most ordinary citizens, democracy is equal to political parties. However, this visibility often comes with criticism, as people tend to blame parties for everything that is wrong with our democracy.

The chapter explains that **Political Parties** perform seven key functions. They contest elections, propose different policies, and play a decisive role in making laws. Once a party wins a majority, it forms and runs the government. The losing parties form the opposition,

which is vital for holding the ruling party accountable. They also shape public opinion and provide citizens access to government machinery and welfare schemes.

Furthermore, the chapter discusses the necessity of **Political Parties**. Without them, every candidate would be independent, and no one could promise major policy changes to the people. We then explore the different party systems. India uses a Multi-party system, which often leads to "Coalition Governments." This system is more representative of India's social and geographical diversity.

The text also covers the challenges faced by **Political Parties**, such as the lack of internal democracy, dynastic succession, the growing influence of money and muscle power, and the lack of meaningful choice for voters. It concludes by suggesting reforms like the Anti-Defection Law and mandatory filing of affidavits to clean up the political process.

Mind Map: Political Parties

- **Necessity of Parties**
 - Representation of diverse views
 - Accountability to the electorate
- **Classification**
 - National Parties (e.g., BJP, INC)
 - Regional/State Parties (e.g., DMK, TMC)
- **Challenges**
 - Dynastic Succession
 - Money and Muscle Power
 - Lack of Internal Democracy
- **Reforms**
 - Anti-Defection Law
 - Affidavits for property/criminal cases
 - Internal Elections

Important Keywords and Meanings

- **Affidavit:** A signed document submitted to an officer where a person makes a sworn statement regarding their personal information.
 - **Defection:** Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party.
 - **Coalition:** An alliance of two or more political parties to form a government when no single party gets a majority.
 - **Alliance:** When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections.
 - **Manifesto:** A public declaration of policies and aims issued before an election by a political party.
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Important Questions & Answers

Short Answer Type Questions

Q1. What are the three main components of a political party?

Ans: The three components are:

1. The Leaders: Those who take policy decisions.
2. The Active Members: Those who work for the party at the grassroots level.
3. The Followers: The general public who support the party's ideology and vote for it.

Q2. Why is a multi-party system suited for India?

Ans: India is a vast and diverse country with various social, geographical, and linguistic groups. A multi-party system allows these diverse interests to be represented in the government, which a two-party system could not achieve.

Long Answer Type Questions

Q1. Describe the major challenges faced by political parties in India.

Ans: The challenges include:

1. **Lack of Internal Democracy:** Power is concentrated in the hands of one or a few leaders.
2. **Dynastic Succession:** Top positions are often controlled by members of one family, preventing hardworking members from rising.
3. **Money and Muscle Power:** Parties focus on candidates who can raise large sums of money or use force to win votes.
4. **Lack of Meaningful Choice:** Most parties have similar ideologies, making it hard for voters to find a distinct alternative.

20 MCQs on Political Parties

1. A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power is called:
(a) Pressure Group (b) Political Party (c) Interest Group (d) Movement Group
2. Which of these is a component of a political party?
(a) Leaders (b) Active members (c) Followers (d) All of the above
3. The rise of political parties is directly linked to:
(a) Emergence of representative democracies (b) Direct democracy (c) Dictatorship (d) Monarchy
4. How many parties are registered with the Election Commission of India?
(a) Less than 100 (b) More than 750 (c) Exactly 500 (d) 200
5. A system with only one party allowed to control and run the government:
(a) One-party system (b) Two-party system (c) Multi-party system (d) None of these

6. China is an example of a:
(a) One-party system (b) Two-party system (c) Multi-party system (d) Democratic system
7. The USA and UK follow a:
(a) One-party system (b) Two-party system (c) Multi-party system (d) No-party system
8. When several parties join hands to contest elections, it is called:
(a) An Alliance or Front (b) A Coalition (c) A Unified party (d) A Union
9. To become a National Party, a party must win at least ____ seats in the Lok Sabha.
(a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 10 (d) 15
10. Which party is the oldest in India?
(a) BJP (b) Indian National Congress (c) BSP (d) CPI-M
11. The BJP was founded in which year?
(a) 1950 (b) 1970 (c) 1980 (d) 1990
12. The symbol of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is:
(a) Hand (b) Lotus (c) Elephant (d) Broom
13. Changing party allegiance after being elected is called:
(a) Defection (b) Affidavit (c) Partisanship (d) Allotment
14. The Election Commission has made it mandatory for candidates to file an ____ to reduce money power.
(a) Affidavit (b) Application (c) Agreement (d) Identity card
15. Who is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party?
(a) B.R. Ambedkar (b) Jyotiba Phule (c) Kanshi Ram (d) Mayawati
16. Which of these is a challenge to political parties?
(a) Lack of internal democracy (b) Dynastic succession (c) Money power (d) All of the above
17. Parties that lose elections and criticize the government are called:
(a) Ruling Party (b) Opposition Party (c) Neutral Party (d) Left Party
18. A person strongly committed to a party is a:
(a) Partisan (b) Leader (c) Follower (d) Candidate
19. In a multi-party system, if no party gets a majority, they form a:
(a) Single government (b) Coalition government (c) Presidential government (d) Military government
20. The "Lotus" is the symbol of which party?
(a) INC (b) BJP (c) NCP (d) CPI

Exam Tips / Value-Based Questions

- **Draw Flowcharts:** Always represent the types of party systems using a flowchart to save time and score better.
 - **Focus on Symbols:** Remember the symbols of national parties as they are frequently asked in MCQs.
 - **Value-Based Question:** "Political parties are necessary for a democracy." Do you agree? Explain with values of accountability and representation.
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Conclusion

Studying **Political Parties** helps students understand the machinery behind Indian democracy. From the functions they perform to the reforms needed to improve them, this chapter covers it all. Use these **Political Parties Class 10 notes** for a quick revision before your exams.
