

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

1. State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.

Ans. Functions performed by political parties in a democracy:

- (a) Group together a large number of similar opinions, thereby providing a direction in which policies can be formulated
- (b) Contest elections, providing the voters a choice between different policies
- (c) Winning party forms and runs the government. Losing parties form the opposition, and keep a check on the working of the government
- (d) Play a decisive role in making laws, especially by debating them in the legislature.
- (e) Shape public opinion by raising and highlighting issues
- (f) Provide people a way to access government machinery and welfare schemes.

2. What are the various challenges faced by political parties?

Ans. Various challenges faced by political parties:

- (a) Lack of internal democracy : This is caused by the concentration of power in the hands of a few leaders. As a result, positions at the top are reserved for the leaders' relatives (dynastic succession) or people close to them.

(b) Increased dependence on money and muscle power. This causes the party policies to be moulded by groups which supply these to the party.

(c) Failure to provide a meaningful choice to the voters. This is because of the decline in fundamental, ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world.

3. Suggest some reforms to strengthen parties so that they perform their functions well?

Ans. Some reforms which could strengthen political parties are:

A law should be established to regulate the internal affairs of parties, thereby making them more transparent. Women should be given at least one-third tickets. The state should fund election campaigns, thereby eliminating lobbying groups and unfair competition.

4. What is a political party?

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

5. What are the characteristics of a political party?

Ans. Characteristics of a political party are:
The presence of a central ideology which defines what it stands for. Policies arising from this ideology; the party promises to implement these if it is voted to the presence of a leader, the party workers and supporters.

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6. A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government is called a_____.

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

7. Match List I (organisations and struggles) with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists :

Column I		Column II	
(A)	Congress Party	(i)	National democratic Alliance
(B)	Bhartiya Janta Party	(ii)	State Party
(C)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	(iii)	United Progressive Alliance
(D)	Telugu Desam Party	(iv)	Left Front

Ans. (A)-(iii), (B)-(i), (C)-(iv), (D)-(ii).

8. Who among the following is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party?

- (1) Kanshi Ram (2) Sahu Maharaj
(3) B.R. Ambedker (4) Jyotiba Phule

Ans. (1) Kanshi Ram

9. What is the guiding philosophy of the Bharatiya Janta Party?

- (1) Bahujan Samaj
(2) Revolutionary democracy
(3) Integral humanism
(4) Modernity

Ans. Integral humanism

10. Consider the following statements on parties.

- (A) Political parties do not enjoy much trust among the people.
(B) Parties are often rocked by scandals involving top party leaders.
(C) Parties are not necessary to run governments.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) A, B and C (2) A and B
(3) B and C (4) A and C