

Political Parties

Why do we need political parties?

1. Parties contest election- Most of the time elections are fought among political parties .
2. formation of policies- Elections are contested based on the ideologies associated with political parties.

3. uncertain government- In the absence of political parties it would have been impossible to form the government.
4. political party that loose election helps in keeping a check on the powers of government.

5. Political parties also plays a very important role in shaping public opinion.

Major functions of political parties- same answer can be used to describe the characteristics of political parties(change the language as per question)

1. To contest elections.
2. To form and run government.

3. Declaration of policies on which the government will work after elections.

4. To form public opinion and win popular support.

5. To criticize the policies of government and keep a check on government.

Multiparty system-

1. It is a system in which more than two parties has a chance to form the government. These parties may form government individually or through alliance.
2. This system provides political choice to people.
3. It allows representation of even small groups.
4. In this form of government demands of even smaller groups are taken care of.

Notes for class X by Arushi

One party system-

1. Only one party is allowed to rule.
2. No political choice.
3. No representation.
4. It is another form of dictatorship.

Two party system-

1. Government is formed only by two majority parties.
2. Political choice is available.
3. Limited representation.
4. Smaller groups are unable to pressurize government to meet their demand.

Note- Read the information given on page number 78.

Recognized and national parties-

1. All the parties register themselves with the Election commission of India. But based on certain criteria parties are categorized as national parties.
2. These parties are given some facilities like unique election symbol throughout India.
3. A party that secures 6% of total votes or 2 seats in election to the legislative assembly of a state is recognized as state party.
4. A party that secures 6% of total votes or 4 seats in Lok sabha in election to the LOK SABHA is recognized as national party.
5. Or if a party secures 6% of total votes in election to the legislative assembly of four states, then such a party is recognized as national party.
6. Currently India has 7 national parties.
7. Apart from these 7 national parties, most of the parties are recognized as state or regional parties.
8. Regional political parties give more emphasis to regional politics and regional cultural identity.
9. Party symbol for state parties is allocated for particular state only.

Notes for class X by Arushi

1. Lack of internal democracy- concentration of power in few leaders.

2. Dynastic succession- It has been seen that family of top leaders often control key positions in party

3. Wrong tricks like money and muscle power to win the elections. Rising participation of rich and criminal in politics is a concern.

Challenges of political parties

4. Absence of meaningful choice. Often people shift parties or their clear ideologies are missing.

5. Negative politics- Sometimes parties keep on blaming each other for no reason. Real criticism is missing.

Study page number 80 and 81 and write the information about national parties in the space below.

Reforms to strengthen the working of political parties-

1. Anti defection law- as per this law MLA and MP's will lose their membership if they switch parties.
2. Supreme court has passed an order according to which it is mandatory for all the candidates to submit an Affidavit with details of assets and criminal cases.

Notes for class X by Arushi

3. Election commission has made to compulsory for all parties to conduct organizational election and file income tax returns.

Suggestions to make strengthen electoral system of India-

1. All parties must have their own constitution and an authority to decide party dispute.
2. 1/3rd tickets of a party must be issued to women candidates only.
3. Fund to parties must be issued by government, so that leaders cannot play money and muscle power.
4. Non serious candidates should not be issued tickets. Party must have clear criteria for issuing tickets for elections.
5. Here role of people, pressure groups and media becomes very important they must pressurize parties to follow the above mentioned reforms.

Pressure groups-

1. It is a group of people who seek to promote the interest of a particular section.
2. They do not contest elections.
3. Their objective is to bring positive changes through activism.

Alliance- When two or more political parties come together for contesting elections. It is called Alliance.Ex- NDA and UPA.

Coalition- When no single party or alliance gets clear majority and government is formed with the support of other political parties.

Answer the following questions- These questions are analysis based.

1. "No party system is ideal for all countries and in all countries". Explain the statement.
2. 'Nearly every state party wants an opportunity to be a part of one or other national level coalition'. What do you understand by the given statement.
3. 'Multiparty system has strengthened the democracy in India'. Analyse the statement.
4. Dynasty succession is the major challenge for political parties. Explain.