



CLASS X
POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIT 3
COMPETITION AND CONTESTATION IN DEMOCRACY

SOLUTIONS

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A. Give very short answer:

Q1. What is a political party?

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

Q2. What is a pressure group?

Ans:- Pressure group is an organization that attempt to influence government policies.

Q3. Give one example of pressure group in Manipur.

Ans:- Anti-liquor Movement or *Meira Paibis*.

Q4. What is a National Party?

Ans:- A National Party is a political party which is present in several or all units of the federation.

Q5. What is a Regional Party?

Ans:- A Regional Party is a political party which influence and activity is restricted to a particular state or region.

B. Give short answers:

Q1. Distinguish between a political party and a pressure group.

Ans:-

DIFFERENCES	
Political Party	Pressure Group
i) They contest elections.	i) They do not contest elections.
ii) They aim to directly control or share political power.	ii) They do not aim to directly control or share political power.
iii) Political parties agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.	iii) They are formed when people with occupation, interest, aspiration or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective.



Q2. Why have movements become very important in modern democracies?

Ans:- There are movements like the women movements for empowerment and environmental movements exert influence on politics in various ways and try to draw public attention and support for their goals. That is why these movements have started to play important roles in modern democracies.

Q3. Write four characteristics of a political party.

Ans:- The four characteristics of a political party are—

- (i) Political parties are one of the most visible institutions in a democracy.
- (ii) To win power in the government is its principal objective.
- (iii) The members of a political party agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.
- (iv) Political parties seek to implement their policies and programmes by winning popular support through elections.

Q4. State four functions of a political party.

Ans:- The four functions of a political party are:

- (i) **Contest election** - Political parties contest elections. The political parties fight these elections. Contestations are mainly among the candidates put up by the political parties. Parties select their candidates in different ways.
- (ii) **Policies and programmes** - Every political party prepares its programmes and policies which is published in the election manifesto and distribute it the people. A government is supposed to follow the policies of the ruling party.
- (iii) **Form and run government** - Parties form and run the governments. Parties recruit leaders train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they like.
- (iv) **Role in making laws** - In making laws, parties play a decisive role. But laws are debated and passed in the legislature. Most of the members belonging to a party are moved by the direction of the party leader.

C. Give long answers (Essay type)

Q1. Why do we need political parties?

Ans:- We need political parties because of the following reasons-

- (i) Democratic government cannot exist without political parties.
- (ii) Without parties, government may be formed but its utility will remain ever uncertain.
- (iii) Without parties there will be no accountability of the government and will not be responsible to the people.
- (iv) Without political parties, villagers will not be united and it would be difficult for candidates to contest elections.
- (v) The societies need some agency to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government. Political parties fulfill these needs.



Q.2 Examine the policies and programmes of Indian National Congress.

Ans:-

- (i) The party sought to build a modern secular democratic republic in India under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- (ii) It supports secularism.
- (iii) It supports welfare of weaker sections and minorities.
- (iv) It also supports new economic reforms.
- (v) It is a centrist political party where every section of society are accommodated.

Q3. Describe the ideology, programmes and policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Ans:-

- (i) The BJP wants to build a strong modern India drawing inspiration from India's ancient culture and values.
- (ii) Cultural nationalism 'Hindutva' is an important element of the party.
- (iii) It wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.
- (iv) It believes in a Common Civil Code and Akhand Bharat.
- (v) It also supports new economic reforms.

D. Objective type questions. Fill up the blanks with correct answer:

Q1. The Congress Party was founded in _____

- (a) 1880
- (b) 1882
- (c) 1885
- (d) 1890

Ans: c) 1885

Q2. The election symbols of recognized political parties are issued by _____

- (a) The President of India
- (b) The Election Commission
- (c) The Chief Justice of Supreme Court
- (d) Party leaders

Ans: (b) The Election Commission

3. 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 government.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) A, B and C
- (b) A and B
- (c) B and C
- (d) A and C

Ans: (b) A and B



EXTRA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q1. What was the aim of the popular movement of Nepal, April 2006?

Ans:- The movement aimed at the establishment of democracy and popular control over the government from the king.

Q2. Give one way of influencing the decision in a democracy. How is it done?

Ans:- One way of influencing the decisions in a democracy is direct participation in competitive politics. This is done by forming political parties, contesting elections and forming government.

Q3. Mention two indirect ways in which people can influence the government?

Ans:-

- (i) By forming an organization and undertaking activities to promote their interest groups.
- (ii) To act together without forming organization.

Q4. Mention three major features of a popular movement?

Ans:-

- (i) Movement has a loose organization.
- (ii) Movement attempts to influence politics indirectly.
- (iii) They depend much on spontaneous mass participation.

Q5. Write 2 points of differences between the sectional interest group and public interest group.

Ans:

DIFFERENCES	
Sectional interest group	Public interest group
(i) These groups promote the interest of a particular section or group of society.	(i) These groups promote the interest of common people.
(ii) Their main concern is the betterment and wellbeing of their members only.	(ii) Its principal concern is with social justice and social equality for the whole society.

Q6. What are the different types of movement groups? Give one example each.

Ans:- Different types of movement groups are:

- (i) Single issue movement - Those movements that seek to achieve a single objective within a limited time is called a single issue movement. Example: Narmada Bachao Andolan in India.
- (ii) Multi issue movement - Those movements that involve more than one issue and run for a long term are called multi issue movement. Example: women movement for empowerment.



Q7. How do pressure groups and Movement group exert pressure on politics? OR In what ways do pressure groups and movements influence politics.

Ans:-

- i) They try to draw public attention and support for their goals by carrying out information campaigning, organizing meeting etc. They try to influence the media into giving more attention to their cause.
- ii) They often organize protest activity like strikes and disruption of government programmes.
- iii) Business groups often employ professional lobbyists or sponsor expensive advertisement. Some of their members may participate in official bodies and committees that advise the government. They also seek to exert influence political parties.
- iv) Sometimes pressure groups are either led or formed by leaders of political parties. Most of the leaders of such pressure groups are usually activists and leaders of party.
- v) Sometimes political parties grow out of movements. After foreigner's issue Asom Gana Parishad formed a government of AGP.

Q8. Explain how activities of pressure groups are useful in the functioning of a democratic government? OR Pressure groups and social movements have started to play important roles in politics for the betterment of ordinary citizens". Give two reasons.

Ans:-

- a. Government can often come under undue pressure from a small group of rich and powerful people. Pressure groups and movement groups counter this undue pressure.
- b. They remind the government the needs and concern of ordinary citizens.
- c. Where different groups function actively no single group can dominate society.
- d. Different views and influence from different groups may lead to a balance of power.
- e. They deepen democratic norms of participation in politics.

Q9. What are the components of political party?

Ans:- A political party has three components –

- i) Leaders
- ii) the active members and
- iii) the followers.

Q10. Write some functions/importance of the political party.

Ans:- Some functions/importance of the political party are:

- a. Contest election: Political parties contest elections. The political parties fight these elections. Contestations are mainly among the candidates put up by the political parties. Parties select their candidates in different ways.
- b. Policies and programmes- Every political party prepares its programmes and policies which is published in the election manifesto and distribute it to the people. A government is supposed to follow the policies of the ruling party.



- c. Mould public opinion: Parties mould public opinion. The parties organize, educate and discipline the electorate. The common people do not have knowledge about the political problems. Political parties present clearly such problems to the people and create awakening among people. They try to mould public opinion in their favour in different ways.
- d. Form and run government: Parties form and run government. Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run government in the way they like.
- e. Role of opposition: Those parties that cannot win majority in the legislature will act as opposition. The opposition parties exercise adequate checks on the government for its failure or wrong policies.

Q11. Why are there a number of political parties in a democratic country?

Ans:- There are a number political parties in a democratic country because in a democracy any group of citizens is free to form a political party.

Q12. What are the three types of party system?

Ans:- i) Single Party system ii) Bi-party System and iii) Multi-party system

Q13. What is single party system? Mention one disadvantage of it.

Ans:- By a single party system, we mean there is only one party in a country and the existence of other parties is not tolerated.

Disadvantage- This system does not permit free competition for power.

Q14. What is bi-party system? Mention one merit of such system.

Ans:- In the states where there are two main parties, it is called bi-party system. Merit of a bi-party system is that it provides political stability.

Q15. What is multi-party system? Mention one merit and demerit of such system.

Ans:- It is a system in which more than two parties function and several parties have reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own or in alliance with others.

Merit- It provides chance even to small and local parties to be part of the government.

Demerit-It leads to political instability.

Q16. What are the two kind of political parties?

Ans:- i) National Parties and ii) State Parties.



Q17. Write any two points of difference between National Party and regional party.

Ans:-

DIFFERENCE	
National Party	Regional Party
i) A party that secures at least six percent of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and win at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized by Election commission as a national party.	i) A party that secures at least six percent of the total votes in an election to the state assembly of a state and wins at least 2 seats is recognized as a state party.
ii) National parties are countrywide parties	ii) Regional parties are meant for a particular region or state

Q18. When was the first BJP government formed at the Centre?

Ans:- The first BJP government was formed at the centre after the election of 1996 but it lasted for 13 days only.

Q19. Mention two important objectives of BSP.

Ans:-

- (i)** It sought to represent and secure power for the Bahujan Samaj which includes the Dalits, adivasis, OBCS and other religious minorities.
- (ii)** It stands for the cause of securing the interest and welfare of the Dalits and oppressed people.

Q20. Mention two important policies and programmes of CPI-M?

Ans:-

- a.** It support socialism, secularism and democracy.
- b.** It opposes the imperialism and communalism.

Q21. State two policy and programmes of CPI.

Ans:-

- i)** The party is opposed to the forces of secessionism and communalism.
- ii)** It accepts parliamentary democracy as a means of promoting the interests of the working class, farmers and the poor.

Q22. Name the party which splitted from Congress party in 1999.

Ans:- NCP(Nationalist Congress Party).

Q23. What is the principal objective of a political party?

Ans:- To win political power in the government is the principal objective of political party.



Q24. What are the pressure groups? Mention any two techniques used by them to influence politics?

Ans:- A group of people having common interests which exert pressure on the government for the fulfillment of its interest are known as pressure groups.

Two techniques used by them to influence are-

- a. They try to draw public attention and support for their goals by carrying out information campaigning, organizing meeting etc. They try to influence the media into giving more attention to their cause.
- b. They often organize protest activity like strikes and disruption of government programmes.

Q25. Suggest one way by which conflict in democracy can be easily and successfully resolved.

Ans:- Mass mobilization can easily and successfully resolved conflict in democracy.

Q26. Why did the makers of the Indian Constitution opted for a democratic polity?

Ans:- Because Indians had a bitter experience of subjugation and poverty under British authoritarian regime for a long time.

Q27. Identify the most important course of event for the success of a mass mobilization.

Ans:- Spontaneous public participation is the important event for the success of a mass mobilization.

Q28. Analyze the ways in which political parties mould public opinion.

Ans:-

- i) The political parties organize, educate and discipline the electorate.
- ii) The common people do not have knowledge about the political problems. Political parties present clearly such problems to the people and create awakening among people. They try to mould public opinion in their favour in different ways.

Q29. Discuss the differences between a pressure group and a movement.

Ans:

- i) Pressure group has a strong organization but movement has a loose organization.
- ii) Decision making in pressure group is formal but informal in case of movement.
- iii) Pressure groups depend on the participation of its members whereas movement depends much on the spontaneous mass participation.



Q30. Why are the political parties, pressure groups and movement necessities of democracy?

Ans: Because they induce the ordinary citizens and encourage them maximum participation in political parties.

Q31. Give a brief account of the popular movement of Nepal in April 2006.

Ans:

- (i) The movement aimed at the establishment of democracy and popular control over the government from the king.
- (ii) All the major political parties formed a seven party alliance(SPA) and call for a four-day strike in Kathmandu and served an ultimatum to the king on April 21, 2006.
- (iii) On the last day of the ultimatum on April 24, 2006, the king was forced to concede all the demands.
- (iv) The SPA chose Girija Prasad Koirala as the new PM of the interim government. The restored Parliament met and passed laws taking away all the powers of the government.
- (v) This struggle came to be known as Nepal's Second movement for democracy. In July 2008, King Gyanendra left the king's palace for the establishment of a democratic republic and constituted an assembly for drafting a new constitution.

