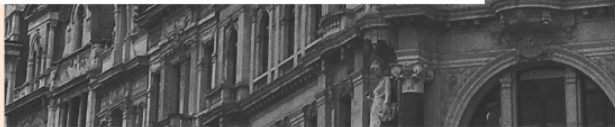


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CLASS X CIVICS NOTES

Political Parties



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Ch-6

POLITICAL PARTIES

Memorable Facts :-

1. Political Party – A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
2. Partision – A person who is strongly committed to party, group or fraction.
3. A political party has three components the leaders, the active members and the followers.
4. Ruling party – Political party that runs government.
5. Defection – Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected (to a legislative body) to a difference party.
6. Affidavit - A signed document submitted to an officer, where a person makes a sworn statement regarding her personal information.
7. One - Party system – The system in which only one party exists and recognised.
8. Two - Pary System – Political system in which the candidates of only two (Major) parties have a reasonable chance of winning election.
9. Electorate – All the persons entitled to vote in a given election.
10. Multiparty system – A system in which many parties exists and have a chance of leading the government.

National Political Parties	Key Features
1. Indian National Congress (INC) (Founded in 1885) 2. Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) (Founded in 1980) 3. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) (Founded in 1984) 4. Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) (Founded in 1964)	1. Secularism, Centrist party (neither rightist nor leftist) welfare of weaker section and minorities, Economic liberalisation) 2. Inspired from India's ancient culture and values, cultural nationalism, territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India, Uniform civil code, Ban on religious conversion, economic liberalisation. 3. Represent dalits, adivasis, OBCS and religious minorities. Inspired from Sahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker, B.R. Ambedkar. 4. Believes in Marxism - Leninism supports socialism, secularism, and democracy and oppose imperialism and communalism accepts democratic elections.

5. Communist Party of India (CPI) (Founded in 1925)	5. Believes in Marxism - Leninism secularism and democracy opposed to the forces of secessionism and communalism, Accepts parliamentary democracy as a means of promoting the interests of working class, farmer and the poor.
6. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) (Founded in 1999)	6. Espouses democracy, Gandhian secularism, equality, social justice and federalism. Wants that high offices in government be confined to natural born citizens of India.

1 Marks Questions :-

- Q. 1 Give an example of a country having one-party systems.
- Q. 2 Name the political parties which are result of social reform movements.
- Q. 3 Name the political party which is inspired from the ideas and teachings of Mahatma Phule and Sahu Maharaj.
- Q. 4 Which is the oldest recognised political party of India
- Q. 5 What are the symbols of BJP and BSP ?
- Q. 6 Why did India adopt multi-party system ?
- Q. 7 What is mean by transparency ?
- Q. 8 Which party system is seen in the USA and the U.K. ?
- Q. 9 The neighbouring country of India where only one party is allowed to rule ?
- Q. 10 Who is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party ?
- Q. 11 How many political parties are there in India ?
- Q. 12 How many national parties are there in India ?
- Q. 13 Who allots election symbol to the political parties ?

3/5 Marks Questions

- Q. 1 State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.
- Q. 2 What are the various challenges faced by political parties ?
- Q. 3 Suggest some reforms to strengthen parties so that they perform their functions Well ?

- Q. 4 What do you mean by regional party ? Give two examples.
- Q. 5 State any two advantages of the multi party system. In what ways is an alliance different from a coalition Government ?
- Q. 6 "The rise of regional parties has led to strengthening of federation and democracy in our country." Do you agree with the option ? Why/Why not ?
- Q. 7 What is opposition party ? Mention the functions of the opposition party.
- Q. 8 What is the difference between national and regional party ?
- Q. 9 Write a brief note on Bhartiya Janata Party and Indian National Congress.
- Q. 10 Why don't parties give enough tickets to women ? Is that also due to the lack of internal democracy ?
- Q. 11 "Nearly everyone of the state parties wants to get an opportunity to be part of one or the other national level coalition". Support the statement with arguments.
- Q. 12 Analyse the three components of a political party.

Answer of 1 Mark Questions :

1. China
2. AIADMK and DMK
3. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
4. Indian national congress
5. BJP-Lotus, BSP - An elephant
6. Because of its social and geographical diversity.
7. The process of collective decision making which is open in public domain.

or

Governments obligation to share information with citizens.

8. Two Party System
9. China
10. Kanshi Ram
11. More than 750

12. Six
13. Election Commission

Answer of 3/5 Marks questions :-

1. The various functions of political parties are :
 - (i) Contest Elections
 - (ii) Policies and programmes - Put forward different policies and programmes among which the voters opt
 - (iii) Form and run the Government
 - (iv) Law Making
 - (v) Role of the opposition
 - (vi) Form the public opinion
 - (vii) Access to Government Machinery and welfare schemes.
2. Following are the various challenges faced by political parties :-
 - (i) Lack of Internal Democracy
 - (ii) Dynastic succession
 - (iii) Money and Muscle Power
 - (iv) Meaningful choice of the voters
 - (v) Membership of the party is not fairly registered
 - (vi) Parties do not hold organisational meetings.
3. Suggestions to strengthen parties :-
 - (i) There should be some laws to regulate the internal affairs of parties.
 - (ii) There should be state funding of elections.
 - (iii) It should be made mandatory for all political parties to reserve minimum seats for women.
 - (iv) The people should put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and agitations.
4. Party that secures at least six percent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state and wins at least two seats is recognised as a regional party.

AAP–Delhi, SP (Samajwadi Party) - U.P., Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD) - Bihar etc.

5. Advantages of multi party system :

- (i) This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.
- (ii) In this system, two or more parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power.
- (iii) It provides various options before the voters.
- (iv) Big states as well as small states get an opportunity of representation in national politics.

When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and arising power it is called an alliance or front.

In a coalition government, various parties come together to form the government, especially when no single party gets clear majority to form the government.

6. Over the last few decades, the number and strength of regional parties has expanded. This made the parliament of Indian politically more and more diverse, since no one national party is able to secure majority on its own in the Lok Sabha. The national parties are compelled to form alliance with state parties. This has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy in our country.

7. The parties, which do not get majority in the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assemblies are called opposition party.

Functions of the opposition party :-

- (i) To criticize the government.
- (ii) To question the government.
- (iii) To blame the ruling party for their wrong doings.
- (iv) To support the government for their constructive works.

8. The major differences between national party and regional party are as under :

- (i) National party has influence all over the country or in several states of India. The influence of a regional party is limited to a state or region.

- (ii) National parties take interest in national as well as international issues where-as regional or state parties are interested in promoting regional/ state interests only.
- (iii) The national parties have to harmonise the national as well as state interest where-as regional parties usually stand for greater autonomy of the states.
- (iv) For a national party, an exclusive symbol is kept reserved throughout the country. In case of a regional party a symbol is reserved for it in the state in which it is recognized.
- (v) National parties have board base but regional parties have smaller base.

9. The Bhartiya Janata Party was started in 1980 from the erstwhile Bhartiya Jana Sangh. Its support base grew rapidly in the 1990s. Earlier, it was limited to the north and western parts of the country, but now it has a pan - Indian base. The BJP has governments in 19 states. Ideologically the party is rightist. It wants to build a strong, modern India by drawing inspiration from ancient culture and values. It wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India, a uniform civil code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion, and ban on religions conversions. It is also supporter of economic liberalizations.

The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885. It was the dominant party of Indian Politics at the national level and to a large extent at the state level for a long time. Since 1989 its influence has declined, but it still maintains a presence across the entire country. The party has seen many splits over the years. Ideologically, the party is centrist. It support secularism and economic liberalization, Welfare of the weaker section of the society.

- 10. Most of the Indian societies have patriarchal mentality. Men do not want to loose power if the parties give tickets to women, steadily the power will go into woman's hands. The patriarchal Indian Society is not ready to accept it. That is why women reservation bill is pending for a long time. Yes, this is an example of lack of internal democracy and not proper faith in capabilities of women.
- 11. Nearly every one of the state parties wants to get an opportunity to be part of one or the other national level coalition because:—

- (i) The members of the state party get a chance of being included in the cabinet or the council of ministers.
 - (ii) State parties get an opportunity and a platform to express their views and ideology at the national level.
 - (iii) It helps in strengthening of federalism and democracy, and thus bringing diversity in the parliament.
 - (iv) In this way the state parties can foster the interests of the state.
12. The following are the three elements or components of a political party:
- (i) The leaders: The leaders contest election and, if they win, perform the administrative jobs.
 - (ii) The active members : The active members attend party meetings and are close to the party leaders. They can be called the assistance of the leaders.
 - (iii) The followers : The followers are the dedicated workers of the party. They work under the able guidance of the active members.