

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

QUESTION PAPER
AI-generated question paper

Code: 1WL5R1

Questions: 35

Maximum Marks: 100

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SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	4 Political Parties
Level of understanding	Thorough understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~5 questions per section + 8 synthesis)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 2 straightforward · 15 medium · 18 deep | Types: 24 Short · 5 MCQ · 5 Long · 1 Very short

Q1. deep thorough-understanding § Overview / Introduction **[3]**

Despite being among the most visible institutions in a democracy, political parties are also among the least trusted. Why do you think widespread visibility of political parties fails to translate into public trust? Use your understanding of what parties do and how citizens experience them to justify your answer.

◆ **Political Parties**

Q2. straightforward thorough-understanding § Why do we need political parties? **[1]**

[mcq] Which of the following most accurately distinguishes a political party from other groups such as pressure groups or interest groups?

- (A) A political party seeks to influence government policy without directly contesting elections.
- (B) A political party tries to win governmental power by contesting elections in its own name.
- (C) A political party represents only the economic interests of a particular social class.
- (D) A political party is formed exclusively to oppose the ruling government.

- A To organise social welfare programmes for citizens
- B To contest elections and hold power in the government
- C To advise the Election Commission on policy matters
- D To represent pressure groups in the legislature

◆ **Political Parties**

Q3. medium thorough-understanding § Why do we need political parties? **[2]**

Political parties are described as 'partisan' by nature. Explain what this means and why partisanship is inseparable from the very idea of a political party.

◆ **Political Parties**

Q4. medium thorough-understanding § Why do we need political parties? **[3]**

Imagine a country where all candidates contest elections as independents and no political parties exist. What specific problem would arise regarding accountability for national policy, and why would that problem be difficult to solve?

◆ **Political Parties**

Q5. medium thorough-understanding § Why do we need political parties? [3]

[short_answer] The majority party or coalition in a legislature is almost always formed by the party or parties that won the most seats in the election. How does this electoral-legislative link shape both the content of laws that get passed and the accountability of those who make them? Explain with reasoning.

◆ Political Parties

Q6. medium thorough-understanding § Why do we need political parties? [1]

Which of the following best explains why large, complex societies especially need political parties, compared to small, simple ones?

- A Large societies have more corruption, so parties are needed to control it
- B Large societies produce too many individual opinions that need to be grouped and channelled into governable policy positions
- C Large societies have more elections, so they need parties to manage the election schedule
- D Large societies distrust governments more, so parties act as watchdogs

◆ Political Parties

Q7. deep thorough-understanding § Why do we need political parties? [5]

Opponents of political parties argue that they only divide society. Using the functions parties actually perform, construct a counter-argument explaining why the divisions parties create are, in fact, necessary for a democracy to work.

◆ Political Parties

Q8. deep thorough-understanding § Why do we need political parties? [3]

[short_answer] In some democracies, all candidates contest elections as independents without any party affiliation. Yet observers find that these independents naturally form informal groups and alliances before and after elections. What does this pattern suggest about the relationship between political parties and the fundamental requirements of representative democracy? Explain.

◆ Political Parties

Q9. deep thorough-understanding § Why do we need political parties? [3]

The role of opposition parties is sometimes seen as merely negative — criticising and obstructing the government. Explain why, from a democratic standpoint, this role is actually a positive and necessary function.

◆ Political Parties

Q10. medium thorough-understanding § How many parties should we have? [3]

India has evolved a multiparty system while the USA and UK follow a two-party system. Why has India not converged to a simpler two-party system like these countries, despite being a democracy for decades?

◆ Political Parties

Q11. deep thorough-understanding § How many parties should we have? [5]

A multiparty system is often criticised for causing political instability. Yet, many political scientists argue it is better suited for a country like India than a two-party system. Do you agree? Justify your answer by weighing both the drawback and the advantage of a multiparty system in the Indian context.

◆ Political Parties

Q12. deep thorough-understanding § Popular participation in political parties [3]

Survey data shows that in India, political parties rank among the least trusted institutions, yet membership in political parties is higher than in many advanced democracies like Canada and Japan. How would you explain this apparent contradiction?

◆ Political Parties

Q13. straightforward thorough-understanding § National parties [1]

[very_short_answer] A party claims it deserves national recognition because it secured 2% of Lok Sabha seats from three different states. Is this claim valid? Justify your answer with reference to the criteria used by the Election Commission of India.

◆ Political Parties

Q14. medium thorough-understanding § National parties [2]

The Election Commission grants recognised parties a 'unique symbol'. Why is this privilege significant for a party during elections, and what would a candidate lose by not having it?

◆ Political Parties

Q15. medium thorough-understanding § National parties [3]

A newly formed party wins 7% of votes in the Legislative Assembly elections of one state and secures three seats in that assembly, but contests no Lok Sabha seats. Which category of recognised party — national or state — can it claim, and why?

◆ Political Parties

Q16. medium thorough-understanding § National parties [3]

[short_answer] The Bahujan Samaj Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party occupy very different spaces in India's political landscape. Compare the two parties on: (i) the social sections they primarily seek to represent, and (ii) the core ideology or philosophy that guides their politics.

◆ Political Parties

Q17. medium thorough-understanding § National parties [3]

The Indian National Congress is described as a 'centrist' party. What does this mean in terms of its ideological position, and how does the party's stand on new economic reforms reflect this centrist orientation?

◆ Political Parties

Q18. deep thorough-understanding § National parties [3]

[short_answer] The Aam Aadmi Party emerged from an anti-corruption movement, while the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) grew out of a regional cultural and social identity movement. How do these contrasting origins illustrate the idea that political parties in a democracy arise to represent different kinds of interests and demands?

◆ Political Parties

Q19. deep thorough-understanding § State parties [3]

Over the last three decades, the growing number and strength of State parties has meant that national parties are increasingly compelled to form alliances with them to govern at the Centre. How has this shift strengthened both federalism and democracy in India? In your answer, explain the connection between coalition politics and the representation of diverse regional interests.

◆ Political Parties

Q20. medium thorough-understanding § Challenges to political parties [1]

Which of the following best explains why dynastic succession in political parties is considered a challenge to Indian democracy? (A) It prevents qualified outsiders from rising through merit, weakening internal democracy. (B) It increases the number of political parties competing in elections. (C) It leads to the formation of pressure groups within the party. (D) It strengthens the ideological commitment of the party to its voters.

A It means the party will always lose elections because voters dislike family rule.

B People without adequate experience or popular support come to hold positions of power, weakening democratic accountability.

C It forces ordinary members to leave the party and form rival parties, creating instability.

D It reduces the funds available to the party since family members do not raise money effectively.

◆ Political Parties

Q21. medium thorough-understanding § Challenges to political parties [3]

A political party in a democracy consistently nominates only wealthy candidates and receives large donations from big corporations. How does this practice undermine the party's core purpose in a democracy?

◆ Political Parties

Q22. deep thorough-understanding § Challenges to political parties [3]

In many democracies, the major parties have moved closer to each other in their economic policies over time. Why does this narrowing of ideological difference pose a challenge specifically to voters, rather than just to the parties themselves?

◆ Political Parties

Q23. deep thorough-understanding § Challenges to political parties [3]

The anti-defection law was passed to stop elected representatives from switching parties for personal gain. However, critics argue the same law creates a new problem for democracy. What is that problem, and why does it arise directly from how the law works?

◆ Political Parties

Q24. deep thorough-understanding § How can parties be reformed? [3]

The Constitution was amended to disqualify any MLA or MP who switches parties after being elected. While this reform reduced defection, it also produced an unintended negative consequence for democracy. What is that consequence, and why does it arise from the very same rule?

◆ Political Parties

Q25. medium thorough-understanding § How can parties be reformed? [1]

[mcq] A reform requires every election candidate to file a sworn affidavit declaring assets and criminal cases. Which of the following best explains a key limitation of this reform?

(A) Voters rarely have access to the information declared in the affidavit.

(B) The Election Commission lacks the authority to enforce filing of affidavits.

(C) Disclosure of information alone does not prevent voters from electing candidates with criminal records if they remain influential.

(D) The reform applies only to national elections and not state assembly elections.

A The Election Commission does not have the authority to receive such affidavits from candidates.

B There is no reliable mechanism to verify whether the information declared in the affidavit is accurate.

C Candidates are only required to declare criminal cases, not details of their property.

D The Supreme Court order applies only to national elections, not state assembly elections.

◆ Political Parties

Q26. medium thorough-understanding § How can parties be reformed? [3]

Two proposed reforms for political parties are: (i) reserving at least one-third of election tickets for women candidates, and (ii) state funding of elections. For each, explain the specific problem it is meant to solve.

◆ Political Parties

Q27. medium thorough-understanding § How can parties be reformed? [2]

[short_answer] Why is legal regulation considered an insufficient primary tool for reforming political parties in a democracy? Explain with relevant reasoning.

◆ Political Parties

Q28. deep thorough-understanding § How can parties be reformed? [5]

[long_answer] Two citizen-centred approaches to political party reform are: (i) pressuring parties from outside through protests, media, and activism, and (ii) joining and transforming parties from within. A student argues that external pressure is more practical for ordinary citizens and equally effective as working from within. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer, examining the strengths and limitations of both approaches.

◆ Political Parties

Q29. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [5]

Political parties are described as both necessary for democracy and widely distrusted by citizens. How do you explain this paradox? Use the functions parties perform and the challenges they face to justify your answer.

◆ Political Parties

Q30. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

The growth of regional (State) parties over the last three decades has both complicated and strengthened Indian democracy. Justify this statement by linking the nature of India's multiparty system to the functioning of federalism.

◆ Political Parties

Q31. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [1]

Assertion (A): Even in panchayat elections where political parties do not formally contest, villages tend to split into rival panels of candidates.

Reason (R): Political parties naturally link social divisions and community interests to the electoral process, so informal party-like groupings emerge even where formal party labels are absent.

Choose the correct option:

- (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true but R is false.
- (D) A is false but R is true.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C A is true but R is false.
- D A is false but R is true.

◆ Political Parties

Q32. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [5]

The anti-defection law, the mandatory filing of affidavits by candidates, and the Election Commission's directive on internal organisational elections each target a different challenge facing political parties in India. Identify the specific challenge each measure is designed to address, and briefly explain one limitation that prevents each from fully solving the problem.

◆ Political Parties

Q33. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

India has evolved a multiparty system while the USA and UK use a two-party system. Explain why this difference exists and why it would be inappropriate to simply adopt one country's party system in another.

◆ Political Parties

Q34. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

A political party consistently wins elections and forms a stable government, yet it is dominated by one family, fields only wealthy candidates, and suppresses internal dissent. Does the presence of these challenges cancel out the party's democratic contributions, or can both coexist? Justify your reasoning with reference to the functions and challenges of political parties.

◆ Political Parties

Q35. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

It has been argued that 'the problem of bad politics can be solved by more and better politics.' Explain how this conclusion follows from an analysis of what political parties contribute to democracy and from the limitations of legal and institutional reforms aimed at improving political parties.

◆ Political Parties

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