

CBSE CLASS X  
**Social Science (087)**

## ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: 8FORTX

Questions: 11

Maximum Marks: 19

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**SELECTIONS USED**

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	4 Political Parties
Level of understanding	Initial understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~3 questions per section)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 7 straightforward · 4 medium | Types: 5 Short · 4 Very short · 2 MCQ

Q1. straightforward initial-understanding § Why do we need political parties?

[1]

What is a political party?

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**Model Answer**

A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government, agreeing on certain policies and programmes to promote the collective good.

Source: *Democratic Politics – II*, Chapter 4, "Why do we need political parties? – Meaning"

**Explanation**

The examiner expects the textbook definition. Key elements to include: (1) group of people, (2) contest elections, (3) hold power, (4) agree on policies/programmes for collective good. Do not write more than one line for a 1-mark question.

**Q2.** straightforward initial-understanding § Why do we need political parties?

[1]

Which of the following is NOT one of the three components of a political party?

- (A) Leaders  
 (B) Active members  
 (C) Election Commission officials  
 (D) Followers
- A Leaders  
 B Active members  
 C Election Commission officials  
 D Followers

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**Model Answer**

**(C) Election Commission officials**

The three components of a political party are **leaders, active members, and followers**. Election Commission officials are independent constitutional authorities, not part of any political party.

**Explanation**

The textbook defines a political party as having three components: leaders, active members, and followers. The Election Commission is a separate constitutional body that *registers and recognises* parties but is never a component of a party. Examiners expect students to recall this definition directly.

**Q3.** straightforward initial-understanding § Why do we need political parties?

[3]

State any three functions performed by political parties in a democracy with a brief description of each.

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**Model Answer**

Three functions of political parties in a democracy:

1. **Contesting Elections:** Political parties put forward candidates, campaign for them, and contest elections to win power and form the government.
1. **Making Laws/Policies:** Parties put forward different policies and programmes. When a party comes to power, it makes laws and policies based on its agenda and ideology.
1. **Forming the Opposition:** The party or parties that lose elections sit in the opposition. They criticise the government's failures and present an alternative set of policies, thus keeping the government accountable.

Source: *Democratic Politics – II, Chapter 4*

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**Explanation**

The textbook lists several functions of parties (contesting elections, making policies, forming government and opposition, shaping public opinion, providing social and political access). For a **3-mark** answer, name and briefly describe **any three**. Each function = 1 mark. Keep descriptions tight—one sentence each is enough. Do not write lengthy paragraphs.

**Q4.** medium initial-understanding § Why do we need political parties?

[2]

Why is it difficult for a modern democracy to function effectively if all candidates contest elections as independents, without belonging to any political party?

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### Model Answer

If all candidates contest as independents, no one can make promises about major policy changes to the people. Even if a government is formed, elected representatives would only be accountable to their own constituency. No one would be responsible for how the country is run as a whole, making stable and effective governance impossible.

Source: Chapter 4, 'Why do we need political parties?' – Necessity

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### Explanation

The examiner expects two connected points: (1) independents cannot commit to any common policy/programme, so voters have no basis to choose; and (2) there is no collective responsibility for running the country – only local accountability. Both ideas come directly from the textbook's "imagine a situation without parties" paragraph. Quoting or closely paraphrasing that reasoning earns full marks.

**Q5.** medium initial-understanding § How many parties should we have?

[3]

What is a multiparty system? Give one reason why India has such a system.

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### Model Answer

**Multiparty System:** When several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power – either on their own or in alliance with others – it is called a **multiparty system**. The government is usually formed by various parties coming together in a coalition.

**Reason why India has such a system:** India has evolved a multiparty system because its **social and geographical diversity** is so vast that it cannot be easily absorbed by two or even three parties. Different regions, castes, religions and communities require varied political representation, making a multiparty system natural for India.

Source: Chapter 4 – "How many parties should we have?"

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### Explanation

- **Definition (1 mark):** Focus on "more than two parties with a reasonable chance of power, alone or in alliance."
- **Reason (2 marks):** The textbook explicitly states India's diversity – social and geographical – as the cause. Mention coalition/alliance as a feature. Examiners expect these exact textbook points; avoid vague answers like "India is a big country" without linking it to diversity.
- Do not confuse multiparty system with coalition – coalition is the *result*, multiparty is the *system*.

Q6. straightforward initial-understanding § How many parties should we have?

[1]

Which of the following best describes a two-party system?

- (A) Only one political party is allowed to contest elections.
- (B) Power usually alternates between two major political parties.
- (C) Many political parties compete and form coalition governments.
- (D) The government is formed by independent candidates rather than parties.

A Only one party is allowed to contest elections and form the government.

B Power usually alternates between two main parties, with other parties having little chance of winning a majority.

C Multiple parties form alliances to win a majority and share power in government.

D Two parties always contest elections but a third party ultimately forms the government.

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### Model Answer

#### Answer: (B)

In a two-party system, power usually alternates between two main parties; several other parties may exist but have little serious chance of winning a majority to form the government. USA and UK are examples.

Source: *How many parties should we have?*, Chapter 4

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### Explanation

- The passage directly states: "*power usually changes between two main parties... only the two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority of seats to form government.*"
- Option A describes a **one-party system** (e.g., China).
- Option C describes a **multiparty/coalition system** (e.g., India).
- Option D is factually incorrect — in a two-party system, one of the two main parties forms the government, not a third party.
- For MCQs, briefly justify your choice if the question asks to "describe" — it signals the examiner you understand the concept, not just guessed.

Q7. straightforward initial-understanding § National parties

[1]

What is the minimum requirement for a party to be recognised as a national party by the Election Commission of India?

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### Model Answer

A party must secure at least **6% of total votes** in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four states and win at least **four seats in the Lok Sabha** to be recognised as a national party.

Source: Political Parties, Chapter 4

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### Explanation

The examiner expects both conditions stated together — the vote share (6%) AND the seat requirement (4 Lok Sabha seats). Mentioning only one condition will likely lose you the mark. Note the difference: a *State party* needs 6% votes + 2 seats in the State Assembly, while a *national party* needs 6% + 4 Lok Sabha seats across four states.

Q8. medium initial-understanding § National parties

[2]

[short\_answer] What is the significance of a recognised political party being allotted a reserved election symbol by the Election Commission of India?

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### Model Answer

A recognised political party is allotted a **unique/reserved election symbol** by the Election Commission of India. Only the official candidates of that party can use that symbol. This helps voters easily identify the party's candidates and prevents misuse of the symbol by others, giving the recognised party a significant electoral advantage.

Source: Chapter 4, National Parties section

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### Explanation

- The examiner wants two clear points: **(1)** only official candidates of the recognised party can use the reserved symbol, and **(2)** the significance/advantage this provides (voter identification, exclusivity).
- Don't confuse "registered" with "recognised" — all parties register, but only parties meeting the EC's criteria of votes/seats percentage get *recognised* and receive a *unique* reserved symbol.
- Keep the answer focused on the symbol's significance, not the criteria for recognition.

Q9. medium initial-understanding § Challenges to political parties

[3]

How does the growing role of money and muscle power in elections affect political parties in a democracy? State two points.

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### Model Answer

The growing role of money and muscle power in elections affects political parties in the following ways:

1. **Nomination of wealthy/criminal candidates:** Since parties focus only on winning elections, they tend to nominate candidates who have or can raise large sums of money, or even support criminals who can win elections, compromising the quality of representation.
1. **Influence of rich people and companies on party decisions:** Rich people and big companies who fund political parties tend to influence the policies and decisions of those parties, shifting their focus from public welfare to the interests of wealthy donors.

Source: *Democratic Politics*, Chapter 4, Challenges to Political Parties

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### Explanation

- The examiner expects **two distinct points** clearly stated — one on candidate selection and one on policy influence.
- Both points must come from the **third challenge** described in the chapter.
- Avoid vague answers; use key phrases like "nominate candidates who can raise money," "support criminals," and "influence on policies and decisions."
- No need to write more than 2–3 sentences per point for a 3-mark question.

Q10. straightforward initial-understanding § Challenges to political parties

[1]

What does it mean when political parties in a country fail to offer voters a real choice? State one reason why this situation arises.

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### Model Answer

It means voters have no real alternative to choose from, as parties share similar policies. This happens because ideological differences among parties have declined over time.

Source: *Challenges to political parties*, Chapter 4

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### Explanation

The question tests knowledge of the **fourth challenge** to political parties. The key points are: (1) absence of meaningful choice = parties not significantly different; (2) reason = decline in ideological differences. Also acceptable as a reason: same leaders keep shifting between parties. Keep it to one line for 1 mark.

Q11. straightforward initial-understanding § How can parties be reformed?

[1]

What is the practice of elected legislators switching from one party to another called, and what consequence do they face under the anti-defection law?

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### Model Answer

The practice is called **defection**. Under the anti-defection law, an MLA or MP who changes parties loses their seat in the legislature.

*Source: How can parties be reformed?, Chapter 4*

### Explanation

The question tests two things: the term for switching parties and the legal consequence. The source explicitly states the law was passed to prevent defection, and the penalty is losing the legislative seat. Both parts must be included in one line to score full marks.

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