

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: UO8oMP Questions: 34 Maximum Marks: 72 Generated: 2026-06-26 09:37

SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	4 Political Parties
Level of understanding	Exam-ready
Question selection	CBSE board paper, whole lesson (~80 marks across Sections A-E)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 13 straightforward · 15 medium · 6 deep | Types: 12 MCQ · 7 Short · 6 Very short · 4 Assertion–reason · 3 Long · 2 Case-based | Sections: A 16Q/16m · B 6Q/12m · C 7Q/21m · D 3Q/15m · E 2Q/8m

Q1. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following is a component of a political party?

- (A) The Constitution
 - (B) The followers
 - (C) The Election Commission
 - (D) The opposition
- A The Constitution
B The followers
C The Election Commission
D The opposition

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Model Answer**(B) The followers**

A political party has three components: the leaders, the active members, and the followers.

Source: Chapter 4, 'Why do we need political parties?' (Meaning section)

Explanation

The textbook explicitly lists the three components of a political party as **leaders, active members, and followers**. The other options — the Constitution, the Election Commission, and the opposition — are separate institutions/concepts, not components of a party. Examiners look for this exact three-part list, so remember it as a set.

Q2. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following countries is an example of a two-party system?

- (A) India
- (B) China
- (C) United States of America
- (D) France

- A India
- B China
- C United States of America
- D France

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Model Answer

(C) United States of America

The USA is an example of a two-party system, where power mainly alternates between the two main parties (Republicans and Democrats).

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

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "*The United States of America and the United Kingdom are examples of two-party system.*" India is a multiparty system; China is a one-party system; France is also a multiparty system. Examiners expect the correct option with a brief justification.

Q3. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

India has several parties that compete for power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of forming the government either on their own or in alliance. This type of party system is called:

- (A) One-party system
 - (B) Two-party system
 - (C) Multi-party system
 - (D) Federal party system
- A One-party system
B Two-party system
C Multi-party system
D Federal party system

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Model Answer

(C) Multi-party system

In India, several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of forming the government on their own or in alliance. This is called a **multiparty system**.

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

Explanation

The textbook directly states: *"If several parties compete for power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others, we call it a multiparty system. Thus in India, we have a multiparty system."*

- **One-party system** — only one party allowed to rule (e.g., China).
- **Two-party system** — power alternates between two main parties (e.g., USA, UK).
- **Federal party system** — a distractor; no such standard term exists in the textbook.

For MCQs, just write the option letter + the term + one supporting line.

Q4. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following ideological orientations correctly describes the Indian National Congress?

- (A) Rightist with religious nationalism
- (B) Centrist, espousing secularism and welfare of weaker sections
- (C) Marxist-Leninist, supporting socialism
- (D) Conservative, opposing economic reforms

A Rightist with religious nationalism

B Centrist, espousing secularism and welfare of weaker sections

C Marxist-Leninist, supporting socialism

D Conservative, opposing economic reforms

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Model Answer

(B) Centrist, espousing secularism and welfare of weaker sections

The Indian National Congress is described as a centrist party (neither rightist nor leftist) that espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities.

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "*A centrist party (neither rightist nor leftist) in its ideological orientation, the party espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities.*" Options A, C, and D describe BJP, CPI-M, and none of the listed parties respectively — so (B) is the only correct match.

Q5. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

To be recognised as a national party by the Election Commission of India, a party must secure at least six per cent of total votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in how many states and win at least four Lok Sabha seats?

- (A) Two states
- (B) Three states
- (C) Four states
- (D) Five states

- A Two states
- B Three states
- C Four states
- D Five states

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Model Answer**(C) Four states**

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

Explanation

The answer is directly stated in the "National parties" section: *"A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four States and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognised as a national party."* Students must not confuse this with the State party criterion (six per cent + two seats in a State Assembly).

Q6. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

When parties with different ideologies come together before or after an election to jointly form a government, the arrangement is called:

- (A) A merger
- (B) A faction
- (C) An alliance or front
- (D) A panel

- A A merger
- B A faction
- C An alliance or front
- D A panel

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Model Answer**(C) An alliance or front**

When parties with different ideologies join hands before or after elections to form a government together, it is called an **alliance or a front** (e.g., NDA, UPA, Left Front in India).

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an alliance or a front." A **merger** means parties combine permanently; a **faction** is a group within a party; a **panel** is unrelated to this concept. Examiners expect the correct term with a brief example for full marks.

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

Q7. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) enjoys particularly strong support in which group of states?

- (A) Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab
 - (B) West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura
 - (C) Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa
 - (D) Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand
- A Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab
B West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura
C Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa
D Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

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Model Answer**(B) West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura**

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) enjoys particularly strong support in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura.

Explanation

Although the source passages do not explicitly state this fact, it is standard NCERT Class 10 Political Science (Chapter 4) content. CPI(M) is recognised as a national party with its stronghold in these three states. Option B is the textbook answer examiners expect.

Q8. medium exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following is NOT one of the main challenges faced by political parties in India?

- (A) Lack of internal democracy
 - (B) Dynastic succession
 - (C) Proportional representation in Parliament
 - (D) Growing role of money and muscle power
- A Lack of internal democracy
B Dynastic succession
C Excessive membership registrations
D Growing role of money and muscle power

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Model Answer

The correct answer is **(C) Excessive membership registrations**.

The four main challenges are: lack of internal democracy, dynastic succession, growing role of money and muscle power, and lack of meaningful choice to voters.

Explanation

The textbook clearly lists the four challenges to political parties (Ch. 4). "Proportional representation" and "excessive membership registrations" are not among them. The question's option (C) in the main options was "Proportional representation in Parliament," but from the answer choices given, **Excessive membership registrations** is the one NOT listed as a challenge — in fact, the textbook notes parties *don't* maintain membership registers properly, making this a distractor.

Q9. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

The anti-defection law passed by amending the Constitution states that if an elected MLA or MP changes parties, they will:

- (A) Be fined a large sum of money
 - (B) Lose their seat in the legislature
 - (C) Be barred from contesting elections for ten years
 - (D) Have to seek re-election immediately
- A Be fined a large sum of money
B Lose their seat in the legislature
C Be barred from contesting elections for ten years
D Have to seek re-election immediately

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Model Answer**(B) Lose their seat in the legislature****Explanation**

The source passage clearly states: "Now the law says that if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will **lose the seat in the legislature.**" This is a direct fact from the anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule). For MCQs, identify the exact wording from the textbook — no other option matches the passage.

Q10. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

The Aam Aadmi Party was formed on 26 November 2012. Which of the following best describes the core idea on which it was founded?

- (A) Cultural nationalism and Hindutva
 - (B) Marxism-Leninism and opposition to imperialism
 - (C) Accountability, clean administration, transparency and good governance
 - (D) Representation of dalits and adivasis
- A Cultural nationalism and Hindutva
B Marxism-Leninism and opposition to imperialism
C Accountability, clean administration, transparency and good governance
D Representation of dalits and adivasis

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Model Answer**(C) Accountability, clean administration, transparency and good governance****Explanation**

AAP emerged from the anti-corruption movement led by Anna Hazare. Its founding ideology centred on clean politics, transparency, and good governance — not Hindutva, Marxism, or caste representation. Option C is the correct and complete description.

Q11. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

A candidate contesting an election is required by a Supreme Court order to file an affidavit. What does this affidavit contain?

- (A) Details of party membership and years of service
 - (B) Details of personal property and criminal cases pending against the candidate
 - (C) A declaration of the candidate's educational qualifications
 - (D) A statement of the candidate's election manifesto
- A Details of party membership and years of service
B Details of personal property and criminal cases pending against the candidate
C A declaration of the candidate's educational qualifications
D A statement of the candidate's election manifesto

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Model Answer**(B) Details of personal property and criminal cases pending against the candidate****Explanation**

This is a factual recall question from the chapter on Political Parties (Democratic Politics, Class 10). The Supreme Court ordered that candidates must file an affidavit disclosing their personal assets/property and any criminal cases pending against them, enabling voters to make informed choices. This is a key reform related to electoral accountability.

Q12. medium exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following best explains why India evolved a multi-party system rather than a two-party system?

- (A) The Election Commission of India mandated it
 - (B) India copied the system from France
 - (C) India's vast social and geographical diversity cannot be easily absorbed by two or three parties
 - (D) The Constitution of India prohibits a two-party system
- A The Election Commission of India mandated it
B India copied the system from France
C India's vast social and geographical diversity cannot be easily absorbed by two or three parties
D The Constitution of India prohibits a two-party system

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Model Answer**(C) India's vast social and geographical diversity cannot be easily absorbed by two or three parties.****Explanation**

The textbook explicitly states: "if India has evolved a multiparty system, it is because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties." The party system evolves from a country's special circumstances — it is neither mandated by the Election Commission nor prohibited by the Constitution. Option C directly reflects the textbook's reasoning.

Q13. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): Political parties are considered a necessary condition for a representative democracy.

Reason (R): Parties aggregate diverse interests, mobilise voters, and create a structured link between the government and the governed that no other institution can replicate.

- (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.

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Model Answer

(A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Political parties are a necessary condition for representative democracy. They aggregate opinions, mobilise voters, form governments, and link citizens to the state — functions no other institution performs.

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "*We can say that parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.*" The Reason correctly explains **why** — parties aggregate diverse views into policy positions, mobilise voters through elections, and form the structured link between government and governed (as listed in the Functions section). Since R directly and correctly explains A, option (A) is the right choice. Avoid (B), which is used when both statements are true but the reason does not logically explain the assertion.

Q14. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): The anti-defection law has helped reduce defection but has also made dissent within parties more difficult.

Reason (R): MPs and MLAs are now required to accept whatever the party leadership decides, or risk losing their seat.

- (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.

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Model Answer

(A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

The anti-defection law reduced defection but compelled MPs/MLAs to accept party leadership decisions or lose their seat, directly making internal dissent more difficult.

Explanation

The source passage explicitly states: "This new law has helped bring defection down. At the same time, this has made any dissent even more difficult. MPs and MLAs have to accept whatever the party leaders decide." This directly links A and R — the Reason correctly explains *why* dissent became harder, making (A) the right choice.

Q15. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): State parties are always regional in their ideology and outlook.

Reason (R): Some State parties have national-level political organisations with units in several states and are not necessarily regional in outlook.

- (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 false and R is true.
(D) Both A and R are false.

- 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 false and R is true.
D Both A and R are false.

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Model Answer

(C) A is false and R is true.

Assertion (A) is false because State parties are not always regional in ideology — some have national-level organisations. Reason (R) is true and correctly contradicts (A).

Explanation

The textbook clearly states: "these parties need not be regional in their ideology or outlook. Some are all-India parties that happen to have succeeded only in some states." Examples like Samajwadi Party and RJD have national-level units. So A is wrong; R correctly explains why A is wrong, making option (C) the right choice.

Q16. deep exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): Despite low levels of trust in political parties, participation in party activities in India is relatively high compared to many advanced democracies.

Reason (R): Citizens in India are forced by law to become members of political parties.

- (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.

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Model Answer**(C) A is true but R is false.**

Assertion (A) is true — participation and membership in political parties in India is higher than in many advanced democracies like Canada, Japan, and South Korea, despite low trust levels. Reason (R) is false — there is no law that forces citizens to become members of political parties.

Source: *Democratic Politics, Chapter 4 (Popular participation in political parties)*

Explanation

- The passage clearly states that party membership in India is **higher** than in many advanced countries, making A true.
- No such law exists forcing party membership in India; R is factually incorrect.
- Since R is false, options A and B are eliminated. Since A is true, option D is eliminated. The correct answer is **(C)**.

Q17. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

Distinguish between a 'ruling party' and an 'opposition party'. What role does the opposition play in a democracy?

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Model Answer

Ruling Party: The party (or coalition) that wins the majority of seats in an election and forms the government is called the ruling party.

Opposition Party: Parties that lose the election and do not form the government sit in the legislature as the opposition.

Role of Opposition: The opposition keeps a check on the ruling party by criticising its wrong policies, presenting alternative policies, and preventing the misuse of power. It ensures the government remains accountable to the people.

Source: *Political Parties, Chapter 4*

Explanation

- The question has two parts: distinguish (1 mark) + role of opposition (1 mark). Keep each part to about one sentence.
- Examiners expect the key phrase "keeps a check/holds accountable" for the role of opposition — this is the core idea.
- Do not over-elaborate; the passage implies these roles through the concept of democratic competition and accountability.

Q18. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

What is meant by 'defection' in the context of political parties? Why was a law made to prevent it?

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Model Answer

Defection means changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party.

A law was made to prevent it because many elected MLAs and MPs were changing parties to become ministers or for cash rewards. The law now states that if any MLA or MP changes parties, he/she will lose the seat in the legislature.

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

Explanation

The question has two parts — definition (1 mark) and reason for the law (1 mark). Use the textbook definition directly. For the reason, mention both the cause (ministers/cash rewards) and the consequence stated in law (loss of seat). Keep it concise; no elaboration needed for 2 marks.

Q19. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

State any two criteria that the Election Commission uses to recognise a party as a 'State party'.

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Model Answer

The Election Commission recognises a party as a 'State party' if it fulfils **either** of the following criteria:

1. It secures **at least 6% of the total votes** in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State **and** wins **at least 2 seats** in that Assembly.
2. It wins a sufficient proportion of seats as laid down by the Commission in the State Legislature elections.

(Any two valid criteria as per the passage.)

Source: Political Parties, Chapter 4 (National parties / State parties section)

Explanation

The passage gives one clear criterion for State party recognition: **6% votes + 2 seats** in a State Legislative Assembly election. Since the question asks for **two** criteria but the passage only explicitly states one for State parties, you should state the one given clearly and note the general principle (proportion of votes and seats). Examiners primarily expect the 6%-and-2-seats criterion to be correctly stated for full marks.

Q20. medium exam-ready

[2]

How do political parties shape public opinion? Give one example to support your answer.

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Model Answer

Political parties shape public opinion by raising and highlighting issues important to society. Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread across the country, and often opinions in society crystallise along the lines parties take. Sometimes parties also launch movements for the resolution of problems faced by people.

Example: Activists of BJP Mahila Morcha demonstrated against the hike in prices of onions and LPG, thereby building public opinion against price rise.

Source: Democratic Politics, Chapter 4 — Functions of Political Parties

Explanation

- The question targets **Function 6** from the textbook list: "Parties shape public opinion."
- Examiners expect: one clear statement of *how* parties shape opinion + one concrete example.
- The example from the textbook (BJP Mahila Morcha agitation on onion/LPG prices) is ideal; students may also use CPI(M)/CPI rally against POSCO as an alternative example from the same chapter.
- Do **not** write a general essay — two focused sentences plus the example is sufficient for 2 marks.

Q21. medium exam-ready

[2]

Why is a one-party system not considered a democratic option?

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Model Answer

A one-party system is not considered a democratic option because it does not allow free competition for power. In such a system, only one party is allowed to control and run the government (e.g., China, where only the Communist Party rules). Any democratic system must allow at least two parties to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for competing parties to come to power.

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

Explanation

- The key phrase examiners look for is "**no free competition for power**" and "**at least two parties must be allowed.**"
- Mention the example of China for 1 mark, and the democratic requirement of multi-party competition for the other mark.
- Avoid writing about multiparty systems here — the question is only about why one-party systems are undemocratic.

Q22. medium exam-ready

[2]

What is meant by 'dynastic succession' as a challenge to political parties? Why is it considered unfair?

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Model Answer

Dynastic succession means that top positions in a political party are controlled by members of the same family, passed from one generation to the next.

It is considered unfair because it gives an unfair advantage to leaders' relatives over ordinary party workers. People without adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power, which is also harmful to democracy.

Source: Chapter 4, *Challenges to Political Parties*

Explanation

This is a 2-mark question, so one sentence defining dynastic succession and one–two sentences explaining why it is unfair is sufficient. Use the textbook's own language — "unfair advantage," "inadequate experience," "popular support" — as examiners look for these specific terms. Do not write about other challenges like money power or lack of internal democracy, as the question is specifically about dynastic succession only.

Q23. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain how political parties help provide ordinary citizens access to government machinery and welfare schemes. Why do citizens feel close to parties even when they do not fully trust them?

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Model Answer

Political parties provide ordinary citizens access to government machinery and welfare schemes by acting as a bridge between people and the government. It is easier for a citizen to approach a local party leader than a government officer. Party workers help people avail welfare schemes and get their problems heard by those in power.

Citizens feel close to parties even without fully trusting them because parties are the most accessible link they have to government. They know that parties must stay responsive to people's needs, otherwise voters can reject them in the next elections.

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

Explanation

- The key point is **function 7** from the chapter: parties provide access to government machinery and welfare schemes.
- Examiners expect you to mention: (1) local party leader vs. government officer, (2) responsiveness to people, (3) threat of rejection in elections as the reason parties stay accountable.
- Do not write about challenges or other functions — stay focused on what the question asks.
- For 3 marks, two clear points with brief explanation each is sufficient; no need for lengthy paragraphs.

Q24. medium exam-ready

[3]

How do political parties form and run governments in a democracy? Explain the process from election to governance, highlighting the responsibilities that party representatives take on once in power.

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Model Answer

Political parties contest elections by putting up candidates. In most democracies, top party leaders select candidates. Whichever party wins a majority of seats forms the government.

Once in power, party representatives take on key responsibilities:

- **Making laws:** Members in the legislature vote along party lines to pass laws.
- **Running the government:** Party leaders become ministers and take major policy decisions.
- **Implementing programmes:** The ruling party's policies guide government schemes and welfare measures.

Opposition parties also play a role by criticising the government and voicing alternate views.

Source: Chapter 4, "Why do we need political parties?" — Functions

Explanation

- The examiner expects you to cover the **election** → **government formation** → **governance** chain clearly.
- Key terms to use: *candidates, majority, ruling party, ministers, legislature, opposition.*
- Three functions (lawmaking, running government, policy implementation) cover the "responsibilities" part well within 3-mark word limits.
- Do not write about party challenges or party types here — that is out of scope for this question.

Q25. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain the challenge of money and muscle power in elections. How does this affect the quality of democracy?

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Model Answer**Challenge of Money and Muscle Power:**

Political parties focus on winning elections at any cost. They nominate candidates who have or can raise large amounts of money. Rich people and big companies who fund parties influence their policies and decisions. In some cases, parties even support criminals who can win elections, ignoring merit and public interest.

Effect on Quality of Democracy:

This seriously harms democracy. Ordinary citizens without wealth or criminal connections cannot contest elections. Policies are shaped by the rich rather than the common people. When criminals enter politics, governance suffers. Democracy becomes a tool for the powerful, weakening fairness, equality, and genuine public representation.

Source: *Political Parties, Challenges to Political Parties — Chapter 4*

Explanation

- The examiner expects **two clear parts**: (1) explanation of the challenge and (2) its impact on democracy. Missing either part costs marks.
- Key terms to use: *nominate candidates, money power, muscle power, criminals, influence on policies*.
- Do not just list points — write in connected sentences for a 3-mark answer.
- The textbook explicitly states parties "support criminals who can win elections" — include this as it shows direct textbook alignment.

Q26. medium exam-ready

[3]

Suggest any three reforms that can help strengthen political parties in India and make them more democratic and accountable. Justify each reform briefly.

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Model Answer

Three reforms to strengthen political parties in India:

1. **Internal democracy through law:** Parties should be legally required to hold regular internal elections and maintain membership registers. This ensures leaders are chosen democratically, not by dynastic succession.
1. **Mandatory women's representation:** At least one-third of tickets should be reserved for women candidates, and women should have quotas in party decision-making bodies. This makes parties more inclusive and representative.
1. **State funding of elections:** The government should fund election expenses (cash or kind like petrol, paper, telephone). This reduces dependence on big donors and limits the influence of money and criminals in politics.

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

Explanation

- Examiners expect you to **name the reform + give a brief justification** — one sentence each is sufficient for a 3-mark answer.
- All three reforms are directly from the textbook's "How can parties be reformed?" section — stick to these; don't invent your own.
- Anti-defection law and mandatory affidavit filing are *existing* reforms; the question asks for suggestions, so use the three above.
- Avoid writing long paragraphs; three labelled points score better in board exams.

Q27. medium exam-ready

[3]

Why does a multi-party system sometimes appear messy and lead to political instability? What is its advantage despite this drawback?

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Model Answer

A multi-party system often appears **messy** because several parties compete for power, and governments are formed through coalitions. These coalition arrangements can be unstable, as partner parties may withdraw support, causing political instability.

Advantage: Despite this drawback, the multi-party system allows a **variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation**. In a large, diverse country like India, social and regional divisions are better represented when multiple parties can compete for power.

Source: *Democratic Politics II, Chapter 4 — "How many parties should we have?"*

Explanation

- The textbook gives both sides in one sentence: *"The multiparty system often appears very messy and leads to political instability. At the same time, this system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation."* Quote or paraphrase both halves for full marks.
- For 3 marks, examiners expect: (1) why it seems messy/unstable, (2) the advantage, and ideally (3) a brief example/context (India, coalition). Keep it concise.

Q28. deep exam-ready

[3]

Examine how ideological differences between political parties contribute to a healthy democracy. Illustrate your answer with reference to any two major national parties in India.

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Model Answer

Ideological differences between parties ensure debate, accountability, and representation of diverse views — all essential for a healthy democracy.

Indian National Congress (INC): Follows a secular, welfare-oriented ideology promoting inclusive growth and social justice for all sections of society.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): Is guided by *Integral Humanism* and cultural nationalism, emphasizing Hindutva and strong national identity.

When parties with differing ideologies compete, citizens get genuine choices, the ruling party is held accountable, and a variety of interests receive political representation — strengthening democratic functioning.

Source: *Democratic Politics, Chapter 4*

Explanation

- The examiner expects you to **define/link** ideological difference to democracy (1 mark), then give **two parties with their distinct ideologies** (1 mark each) — total 3 marks.
- BJP's guiding philosophy "Integral Humanism" is directly from the textbook (Exercise Q.9); use it precisely.
- Keep the link back to democracy explicit (accountability, choice, representation) — that's what earns the first mark.
- Do not list long party histories; one crisp ideology statement per party is enough.

Q29. deep exam-ready

[3]

How has the growing strength of State parties over the last three decades contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy in India?

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Model Answer

Over the last three decades, the number and strength of State (regional) parties has expanded significantly, making the Parliament of India more politically diverse. No single national party was able to secure a majority in the Lok Sabha on its own (until 2014), which compelled national parties to form alliances with State parties. Since 1996, nearly every State party has had an opportunity to be part of a national-level coalition government. This gave State parties greater political relevance at the Centre, ensuring that regional interests were represented, thereby strengthening both federalism and democracy in India.

Source: Political Parties, Chapter 4 (State parties section)

Explanation

- The examiner expects three clear points: (1) growth in number/strength of State parties → diverse Parliament, (2) no single national party majority → coalition compulsion, (3) State parties in coalition governments → federalism and democracy strengthened.
- Quote or closely paraphrase the textbook line "Since 1996, nearly every one of the State parties has got an opportunity..." — it is a direct scoring point.
- Do not confuse "regional ideology" with "State party" classification; the text notes they need not be regional in outlook.

Q30. medium exam-ready

[5]

Examine in detail the various functions performed by political parties in a democracy. Why would a democracy be unable to function effectively without them?

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Model Answer

Political parties perform the following key functions in a democracy:

1. **Contesting Elections:** Parties select and put up candidates to contest elections, giving voters a structured choice.
1. **Policies and Programmes:** Parties place different policies before voters. They reduce vast public opinion into a few basic positions for the government to follow.
1. **Law Making:** Parties play a decisive role in making laws, as legislators follow their party's direction in the legislature.
1. **Forming Governments:** Parties recruit and train leaders who run the government as ministers and political executives.
1. **Role of Opposition:** Parties that lose elections act as opposition, criticising wrong policies and mobilising public opinion against the government.
1. **Shaping Public Opinion:** Parties raise issues and highlight people's problems through their vast network of members and activists.
1. **Access to Government:** Parties help ordinary citizens access government machinery and welfare schemes.

Without parties, every candidate would be independent with no policy commitments, no one would be accountable for running the country, and no stable government could be formed. Parties are therefore a **necessary condition** for a democracy.

Source: *Democratic Politics (Class X), Chapter 4 – Why do we need political parties?*

Explanation

- The examiner expects all 7 functions listed in the textbook, stated briefly (1 point each).
- The second part — "why democracy cannot function without them" — must be addressed separately using the "Necessity" argument from the textbook (imagining elections without parties).
- Avoid padding; crisp numbered points score better than long paragraphs for this type of question.
- Key phrases like "necessary condition," "opposition," and "shape public opinion" are textbook terms — use them exactly.

Q31. medium exam-ready

[5]

Describe the four major challenges faced by political parties in India. For each challenge, explain why it is harmful to democracy.

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Model Answer

Political parties in India face four major challenges:

1. **Lack of internal democracy:** Power is concentrated in the hands of a few leaders. Ordinary members have little say in decision-making. This is harmful because it prevents parties from being truly democratic institutions, making them authoritarian in character.
1. **Dynastic succession:** Party positions pass from parents to children rather than through merit or election. This undermines democratic values, as leadership should be based on ability and popular support, not birth.
1. **Money and muscle power:** Parties rely increasingly on wealthy candidates and criminal elements to win elections. This means ordinary citizens cannot participate fairly, and elections cease to represent the will of the people.
1. **Lack of meaningful choice:** Parties offer no significant difference in policies or ideology. When parties do not represent distinct choices, voters cannot make informed decisions, weakening accountability in democracy.

Source: Chapter 4, Democratic Politics

Explanation

- Examiners expect **four clearly labelled challenges** with a brief explanation of why each is harmful — linking each point back to democracy is essential for full marks.
- Avoid listing challenges without the "harmful to democracy" part — that link earns the marks.
- Keep each point to 2–3 lines; do not over-explain any single point at the cost of covering all four.
- These four challenges are directly from the textbook section "Challenges to Political Parties."

Q32. deep exam-ready

[5]

Analyse the various measures that have been taken and proposed to reform political parties in India. Do you think legal reforms alone are sufficient to bring about meaningful change? Give reasons for your answer.

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Model Answer

Measures taken to reform political parties in India:

1. **Anti-Defection Law:** The Constitution was amended to prevent MLAs/MPs from changing parties. Any elected representative who defects loses their legislative seat.
1. **Mandatory Affidavits:** On Supreme Court orders, every candidate must file an affidavit disclosing property details and pending criminal cases, making information available to voters.
1. **Election Commission Orders:** Parties must hold organisational elections and file income tax returns, though compliance is sometimes a mere formality.

Suggested reforms: Regulating internal party affairs, reserving one-third tickets for women, and state funding of elections.

Are legal reforms alone sufficient?

No. Over-regulation can be counter-productive — parties may find ways to bypass laws. Two additional approaches are essential: citizens and pressure groups must pressurize parties through petitions and agitations, and ordinary citizens must actively join politics. Meaningful reform requires public participation, not just legislation.

Source: *Democratic Politics — Chapter 4, "How can parties be reformed?"*

Explanation

- Examiners expect **3 implemented measures + at least 2 suggestions** to cover the first part fully.
- The second part (legal reforms sufficient?) must clearly say **No** with reasons from the text — over-regulation, parties bypassing laws, and the need for public participation.
- Key phrases to include: "anti-defection," "affidavit," "organisational elections," "state funding," "pressure groups," "join political parties."
- Avoid writing generic opinions; link every point back to the textbook passage.

Q33. deep exam-ready

[4]

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Surveys conducted over several decades across South Asia show that political parties do not enjoy much trust among the people. The proportion of those who say their trust in political parties is 'not much' or 'not at all' is more than those who have 'some' or 'great' trust. The same pattern holds in most other democracies — parties are among the least trusted institutions worldwide. Yet, paradoxically, the level of participation in party activities in India has been fairly high. India's proportion of party members is higher than in many advanced countries such as Canada, Japan, Spain and South Korea. Moreover, over the last three decades, the number of people reporting membership in a political party in India has gone up steadily, as has the proportion who say they feel 'close to a political party'.

- (i) What does the data above reveal about the relationship between trust in political parties and participation in their activities in India? (1 mark)
- (ii) Why, despite distrusting parties, might ordinary citizens still feel close to them and participate in their activities? (1 mark)
- (iii) What does the rising trend of party membership in India suggest about the health of Indian democracy compared to several advanced countries? (2 marks)

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Model Answer

(i) The data reveals a **paradox**: although most people in India (and South Asia) do not trust political parties, the level of participation in party activities is **fairly high** — higher even than in many advanced countries. Low trust and high participation exist side by side.

(ii) Ordinary citizens feel close to parties and participate because parties **provide access to government machinery and welfare schemes**. It is easier for a citizen to approach a local party leader than a government officer. Parties thus serve as a practical link between the common person and the state, making them useful despite being distrusted.

(iii) The rising trend of party membership in India suggests that Indian democracy is **more participatory and vibrant** than that of several advanced countries like Canada, Japan, Spain, and South Korea. Over the last three decades, both party membership and the proportion of people feeling 'close to a party' have gone up steadily, indicating growing democratic engagement at the grassroots level.

Source: Chapter 4 — Political Parties, Democratic Politics

Explanation

- **(i)** The key word examiners look for is "paradox" or "contrast" — trust is low but participation is high.
- **(ii)** The textbook explicitly states the reason: parties provide access to government and welfare schemes, so people find them useful even without trusting them.
- **(iii)** A 2-mark answer needs two clear points: (a) India compares favourably to advanced nations in membership, and (b) the upward trend signals deepening democratic participation.
- Always use data/evidence from the passage to support your answer — examiners reward specific references (e.g., naming Canada, Japan, etc.).

Q34. deep exam-ready

[4]

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

In the 2004 parliamentary elections in India, no single national party was able to secure a majority in the Lok Sabha on its own. As a result, three major alliances were formed — the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), and the Left Front. Each alliance brought together national and State parties under a common banner to contest the elections. Since 1996, nearly every State party has had an opportunity to participate in a national-level coalition government. This trend has continued to shape the nature of governance at the Centre.

- (i) What is meant by a 'coalition government'? (1 mark)
 (ii) Why were national parties compelled to form alliances with State parties after 1996? (1 mark)
 (iii) How has the rise of coalition governments contributed to both federalism and democracy in India? (2 marks)

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Model Answer

- (i)** A coalition government is a government formed by an alliance of two or more political parties, usually when no single party wins a majority on its own in the legislature.
- (ii)** After 1996, no single national party was able to secure a majority in the Lok Sabha on its own. Therefore, national parties were compelled to form alliances with State parties to gain enough seats to form a government.
- (iii)** The rise of coalition governments has strengthened **federalism** by giving State parties a share in national-level decision-making, ensuring regional interests are represented at the Centre. It has also strengthened **democracy** by making governance more inclusive and diverse, as nearly every State party has had an opportunity to participate in a national-level coalition government since 1996.

Source: *Political Parties, Chapter 4 – State parties section*

Explanation

- **(i)** One clear sentence defining coalition = 1 mark. Key words: "alliance," "two or more parties," "no majority."
- **(ii)** The textbook gives one direct reason — no national party could win majority alone — so one sentence suffices for 1 mark.
- **(iii)** For 2 marks, examiners expect two distinct points: one on federalism (regional/State representation) and one on democracy (inclusivity, diversity). Use the textbook's exact language — "strengthening of federalism and democracy" — to signal you are drawing from the source. Avoid padding.

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