



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE



Subject: Demo. Politics	Topic: Political Parties	Date of Worksheet :23/8/2019
Resource Person: Mrs.Sangeeta Kumble	Date :	
Name of the Student :	Class & Division :	Roll Number :

1	Define a political party. Give some features of a political party. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.• They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.• Parties try to persuade people why their policies are better than others.• They seek to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.• Parties reflect fundamental political divisions in a society involving PARTISANSHIP. Thus a party is known by which part it stands for, which policies it supports and whose interests it upholds.• A political party has three components: <i>The leaders,</i> <i>The active members and</i> <i>The followers</i>	5
2	Describe any five major functions of political parties. <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> “Political parties play a major role in democracy”. Explain any five points to justify this statement. <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> “Political parties are rightly called the government in disguise”. Justify the statement in reference to democratic politics by giving five arguments.	5
3	How do political parties help in shaping public opinion? Explain. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They raise and highlight issues.• Parties sometimes also launch movements for the resolution of problems faced by people.• They form pressure groups as an extension.• Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread all over the country.• Often opinions in the society crystallize on the lines parties take.	3
4	Why do we need a political party? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there are no political parties every candidate in the elections will be independent so no one will be able to make any promises to the people about any major policy changes.• The government may be formed, but its utility will remain ever uncertain.• No one will be responsible for how the country run. Elected representatives will be only accountable to their constituency.• There will be no agency to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government.• No one will be responsible in bringing various representatives together so that a	5



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE



	<p>responsible government could be formed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no mechanism to support or restrain the government, make policies and justify or oppose them. Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy. 	
5	<p>Describe the various party systems existing in different countries.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Discuss the classification of party system on the basis of the number of parties in the political system.</p> <p><u>1. One Party System:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one party is allowed to control and run the government. • There is no competition in the system and people have no choice in the elections. These are called one-party systems. • People are not allowed to go against the government. • Eg :Communist party in China <p><u>2. Two Party System:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties. • Several other parties may exist, contest elections and win a few seats in the national legislatures. • But only the two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority of seats to form government. Such a party system is called two-party system. • The United States of America and the United Kingdom are examples of two-party system. <p><u>3. Multi-Party System:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, when no party gets a majority we call it a multi-party system. • In India, we have a multi-party system. 	5
6	<p>Describe any three main features of two –party system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power usually changes between two parties. • Several other parties may exist, contest elections and win a few seats in the national legislatures. • The party that wins the majority forms the government, the other sits in the opposition. • Prompt decision are taken and implemented. • More development and less corruption. 	3
7	<p>Examine the advantages and disadvantages of two-party system.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>What do you mean by bi-party system? Write its one merit and demerit</p> <p>The two party system is one in which power alternates between two parties.</p> <p><u>The following are the advantages of two party system.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Stable government:</u> The government would be stable as it comes to power with a majority and thus there will be continuity of policies and programs. • <u>Strong opposition:</u>In the bi-party system the opposition will be strong and effective as only one party forms the opposition. • <u>Responsible government:</u> The government will be responsible to people and will have efficient governance. <p><u>The following are the disadvantages of two party system.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Undemocratic:</u> Sometimes the two party system is considered to be undemocratic as 	5



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	<p>the ideological choice is very limited between two parties. The opinion of the people cannot be expressed properly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Cabinet dictatorship</u>: Sometimes the party comes to power by an absolute majority. It is difficult to remove and can result in the dictatorship of the cabinet.	
8	<p>What is a Multi-Party System? Explain merits and demerits of Multi-Party System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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, when no party gets a majority we call it a multi-party system.• In India, we have a multi-party system. <p><u>Merits of Multi-Party System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.• People can make a choice between several candidates. <p><u>Demerits of Multi-Party System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The multi-party system often appears very messy and leads to political instability.• No party is likely to gain power alone. Therefore it leads to difficulty in formation of government.	3
9	<p>What is a multi-party system? Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain.</p>	3
10	<p>What is an alliance or front? Give examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• For example, in India there were three such major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections– the National Democratic Alliance, the United Progressive Alliance and the Left Front.	1
11	<p><u>What is meant by a ‘National political party’? State the conditions required to be a national party.</u></p> <p><u>National Party:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National parties have their units in various states.• But by and large all these units follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level.• Ex: <p><u>Conditions required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A party that secures at least six per cent of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four States and• Wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized as a national party.	5
12	<p><u>What is the requirement laid down by the Election Commission for a political party to be recognized as a ‘state party’?</u></p> <p>A party that secures at least 6 per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State and Wins at least two seats is recognized as a State party.</p> <p>Ex:</p>	3



13

What are the various Challenges faced by political parties:

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1. The first challenge is lack of internal democracy within parties:

- All over the world there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.
- Parties do not keep membership registers,
- Do not hold organizational meetings,
- Do not conduct internal elections regularly.
- Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party. They do not have the means or the connections needed to influence the decisions.
- As a result the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.

2. The second challenge is of dynastic succession:

- Most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning.
- There are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party.
- Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage to favour people close to them or even their family members.
- In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family. This is unfair to other members of that party.
- People who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy position of power.

3. The third challenge is about the growing role of money and muscle power in parties, especially during elections:

- Since parties are focussed only on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts to win elections.
- They tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money.
- Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.
- In some cases, parties support criminals who can win elections.
- Democrats all over the world are worried about the increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics.

4. The fourth challenge is that very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice:

- In recent years there has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world
- In our country too, the differences among all the major parties on the economic policies have reduced.
- Those who want really different policies have no option available to them.
- Sometimes people cannot even elect very different leaders either, because the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another.



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14	<p>Elucidate some of the recent efforts taken in our country to reform political parties and its leaders.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Suggest any five effective measures to reform political parties.</p> <p><u>1.Anti-defection:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties.• This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in DEFECTION in order to become ministers or for cash rewards.• Now the law says that if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature.• This new law has helped bring defection down. <p><u>2.Affidavit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals.• Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an AFFIDAVIT giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him.• The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. <p><u>3.File income tax returns :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational elections and file their income tax returns.	3
15	<p>Suggest other effective measures to reform political parties.</p> <p><u>1. A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It should be made compulsory for political parties to maintain a register of its members,• To follow its own constitution,• To have an independent authority,• To act as a judge in case of party disputes,• To hold open elections to the highest posts. <p><u>2.It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• About one-third, to women candidates.• Similarly, there should be a quota for women in the decision making bodies of the party <p><u>3. There should be state funding of elections.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The government should give parties money to support their election expenses.• This support could be given in kind: petrol, paper, telephone etc.• Or it could be given in cash on the basis of the votes secured by the party in the last election. <p>Any other relevant point</p>	5