



ST. MARY'S CO-ED SCHOOL, HARDA

CLASS - X (2020-2021)

DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

CHAPTER – 6

POLITICAL PARTIES

IMPORTANT POINTS OF THE CHAPTER

- 1) A Political Party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. All the parties are about a certain part of the society and thus they involve partisanship.
- 2) China has one party system where only one party is allowed to control and run government. But it is not a good option of democracy.
- 3) USA and United Kingdom are the examples of two party system.
- 4) India has multi- party system , the government is formed by various parties coming together in a coalition.
- 5) India has multi- party system because of the social and geographical diversity of our country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties. Democracies that follow a federal system all over the world tend to have two kinds of political parties i.e the national parties and state parties.
- 6) The Election Commission passed order making necessary for the political parties to hold their organisation elections and their income tax returns.
- 7) People can put pressure on political parties through petitions , publicity and agitations. So, it would become a more serious reform.
- 8) Lack of Internal democracy within parties and concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top is the first challenge of political parties.
- 9) A party is known by which party it stands for , which policies it supports and whose interests it upholds.
- 10) Without existence of parties every person in the politics will be independent. No one will be able to make apt promises to the people.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Q1. State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy

ANS - The functions performed by the political parties are:

- a) They contest elections.
- b) They introduce various policies and programmes for the people.
- c) They play an important role in decision-making to legislate and execute.
- d) These parties, when successful in elections, form and run the government.
- e) These parties, if they lose, become the opposition parties and play the role of criticizing the government.
- f) The parties mould the public's opinion on various issues. They can help them form an opinion and can also influence them to alter their opinion.
- g) These parties help the citizenry to access the government's policies and acts.

2. What are the various challenges faced by political parties?

ANS - There are some challenges that political parties have to face:

- a) The lack of internal democracy – If there is a concentration of power in the hands of one or only a few ministers in the party, it gives space to internal conflicts.
- b) The dynastic succession – This has been in the political parties from time immemorial. The leader of the party sets a lineage and one after another, a dynastic succession keeps taking place, which affects the chances of other ministers in the party to gauge an effective position in the party.
- c) Money and muscle power – The participation of smaller regional parties is lesser due to growing prominence of muscle and money power. These powers can mostly be seen during the election period where parties' rich candidates can gain more votes using both of these.

3. Suggest some reforms to strengthen parties so that they perform their functions well?

ANS -The various reforms that a political party can take are:

A provision within a political party to tackle internal conflicts.

The 1/3rd representation in the party should be given to women candidates.

The parties should not promote candidates having criminal records.

State funding during elections should be promoted so that candidates coming from a poor background stand an equal chance to win.

4. What is a political party?

ANS - 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 promoting the collective good.

5. What are the characteristics of a political party?

ANS -The political party has the following characteristics:

- a) They have members who share the same interests in policies and programmes.
- b) They seek to introduce policies which are for the welfare of the citizens.
- c) There are three components – leader, active members and followers.

QUESTIONS FOR SELF ASSESMENT

Q.1 What do you understand by the term “Partisanship” ? Explain in detail.

Q.2 What is the necessity of a political party for a democracy?

Q.3 How did Communist party of India- Marxist developed after the split in the Communist Party of India?

Q.4 Describe the five major functions performed by the political parties in a Democracy.

Q.5 “ Political Parties are rightly called the government in disguise,” Justify the statement with reference to the democratic politics by argument .