



Political Science

3 . Political Parties

1. Choose the correct option from the given options and complete the sentences.

(1) When people come together and participate in the electoral process, to acquire political power, such organisations are called

- (a) Government (b) Society
(c) Political parties (d) Social organisations

(2) National Conference is a party in State.

- (a) Orissa (b) Assam
(c) Bihar **(d) Jammu and Kashmir**

(3) Justice Party-a non-Brahmin movement was transformed into Political Party.

- (a) Assam Gan Parishad (b) Shivsena
(c) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (d) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference

2. State whether following statements are true or false. Give reasons for your answer.

(1) Political parties act as a link between government and people.

Ans :True.

1. Political parties work as a link between the Government and the people.
2. Political parties communicate the demands and complaints of the people to the government.
3. The government tries to get support of the people for its policies and programmes through political parties.

(2) Political parties are social organisations.

Ans :True.

1. Political parties take initiative in resolving social problems.
- 2.They are involved in various social movements and their work.

(3) Coalition politics leads to instability.

Ans : False.

1. The belief that coalition government brings instability was proved wrong by the political party system in our country.



2. In fact, the coalition government system has stabilised in India.

(4) Shiromani Akali Dal is a national party.

Ans : False.

1. Shiromani Akali Dal is a regional political party which had assumed power in Punjab for many years.
2. It was established in 1920- a prominent regional party in Punjab with the objective of cultivating religious and regional identity.

3. Explain the following concepts.

(1) Regionalism

Ans :

1. The feeling of affinity developed about our language and region gradually turns into the identity consciousness and finally gives rise to regionalism.
2. People start thinking primarily about the interest and development of their own region.

(2) National Parties

Ans :

1. National parties are political parties which exist in democratic system; they are a kind of social organisation with the objective of achieving political power.
2. National parties are organised by the election commission under prescribed conditions.
3. The candidates of the party should be elected in minimum 2% constituencies out of Lok Sabha constituency and from minimum three states.
4. There are many national parties in India with their different ideologies and objective. These parties organised various programs to achieve those objectives.
5. Indian National Congress is the oldest National Party established in 1885. Other national parties are communist (CPI party) of India, BJP, CPI (M), BSP, etc.

4. Answer the following questions in brief.

(1) What are the major characteristics of political parties?

Ans : The major characteristics of political parties are

1. To be in power :

- a. Achieving power through elections is the main objective of political parties.
- b. Thus different political parties compete with each other to get power.

2. To pursue an ideology :

- a. Every political party has some policies and world views.
- b. Parties have a particular stand about social issues. These together make party ideology.
- c. The people who consider any specific party ideology as acceptable support that political party.



d. Social support received by a political party is called the 'mass base' of a political party.

3. To have a Party Agenda :

- a. Political parties prepare their party's agenda on the basis of party ideology.
- b. They implement the agenda after they get political power.

4. To Establish a Government :

- a. Political parties establish the government and govern the nation.
- b. The political party which gets the majority in elections forms the government.

5. To act as a link between the Government and the people.

- a. Political parties work as a link between the Government and the people.
- b. Political parties communicate the demands and complaints of the people to the government.
- c. The government tries to get support of the people for its policies and programmes through political parties.

(2) What changes have taken place in the nature of political parties in India?

Ans :

1. The Congress was a strong political party in the post-independence period. Congress had a majority at the Centre and in most of the States. Indian politics was controlled by the Congress Party. This era was described as the Era of 'Single dominant party system'.
2. The non-Congress parties came together and challenged 'Single dominant party system' in 1977.
3. After the 1989 Lok Sabha Elections, the system of one party emerging as the dominant party came to an end. Since then different parties began to come together to form coalition governments. Both the Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress Party made an experiment of establishing coalition governments. The belief that coalition government brings instability was proved wrong by the political party system in our country. In fact, the coalition government system has stabilised in India.
