INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: Social Science	Sub: Democratic Politics
Chapter-4 Question Bank:4	**Topic: Political Parties**	Year: 2026-27

1	**What is a political party? Which are the components of a political party?** Ans: • A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in a government. • They agree on some policies and programs for the society with a view to promote the collective good. • The leaders, the active members and the followers are the three elements/components of a political party.
2	**Why do political parties involve partisanship?** Ans: • A person who is strongly committed to a party or a group is called as a partisan. • Partisanship is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue. • Political parties show key divisions in society and are naturally partisan. A party is known by the side it supports, the policies it follows, and whose interests it represents.
3	**"Political Parties perform various functions". Which are they?** Ans: The following are the various functions political parties perform in a democracy. • **Contest elections**: In most democracies, elections are mainly among the candidates put forward by the Political Parties. In countries like India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections and in countries like USA, members and supporters of a party choose its candidates. • **Put forward Policies and Programmes**: Parties put forward different policies and programmes and voters choose from them. People may have different opinions and political parties group together a large number of similar opinions to provide a direction in which policies can be formulated by the government. • **Play an important role in making laws**: Political parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally, laws are debated and passed in the legislature, since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the direction of the party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinions. • **Form and run the government**: Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want. • **Play the role of opposition:** The party which loses election plays the role of opposition to the parties in power, by voicing different views and checks on the ruling party by constantly criticizing its policies.

	• **Shape public opinion**: Parties have lakhs of members spread all over the country and they raise relevant issues. Parties also conduct movements against the problems faced by the people. • **Provide access to government machinery and welfare schemes**: Political parties help people connect with government services and welfare schemes. It's easier for common people to reach a local party leader than a government officer. If parties don't meet people's needs, they can be voted out in the next election.
4	**'Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.' Analyze the statement with examples. OR** **"Modern Democracy cannot exist without Political Parties" Do you agree? Justify your answer** Ans: In a democratic set-up, political parties are required because without 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 it's utility will remain uncertain. • Elected representatives will be accountable only to their constituency, but no one will be responsible for running the country. • Larger societies need representative democracy and political parties are needed to collect different views on various issues. • Without political parties, no one will unite different representatives or help the government make or oppose policies. So, political parties are essential for democracy, and they grew along with representative democracies.
5	**Describe the various Party systems existing in different countries**. Ans: **One-party or Single Party system** • In some countries, only one party is allowed to control and run the government. It is called One-party system. We cannot consider One-party system as a good option because this is not a democratic option. • Any democratic system must allow at least two parties to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for the competing parties to come to power. • Example: Communist Party of China. **Two-party or Bi- Party system** • 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 a government. Such a party system is called Two-party system. • Example: USA and UK. **Multi-party system** • 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, it is called a Multiparty system. In this system, the government is formed by various parties coming

	together in a coalition. • 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. • The multiparty system may seem messy and cause political instability, but it allows many interests and opinions be represented. Example: India. India chose a multiparty system because of its social and geographical diversity. In such a country, two or three parties cannot represent all differences.
6	**'No party system is ideal for all countries and all situations.'** **Justify the statement.** Ans: No party system is ideal for all countries and all situations. This statement can be justified through the following arguments • One-party system cannot be considered a good option because the voters do not have any choice and it is not a democratic option. • A two-party system is not ideal because power keeps shifting between just two parties. Other parties with better ideas may contest and win some seats, but only two have a real chance to form the government. • Multiparty system also cannot be considered a good option because it often appears messy and leads to political instability. In this system the government is formed by various parties and ideologies coming together which may further raise issues and conflicts.
7	**Which Parties are called, 'recognized political parties' by the Election Commission?** Ans: • Every Party in the country has to register with the Election Commission. While the Commission treats all parties equally, it offers some special facilities to large and established parties. • These parties are given a unique symbol and only the official candidates of that party can use that election symbol. Parties that get this privilege and some other special facilities are 'recognized' by the Election Commission and such parties are called, 'recognized political parties' • The Election Commission has laid down detailed criteria of the proportion of votes and seats that a party must get in order to be a 'recognized national party' and a 'recognized state party'.
8	**How can we differentiate a National Party and a State Party?** Ans: • A party that secures at least six 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. Example: Biju Janata Dal, Sikkim Democratic Front. • 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 recognized as a national party. Example: Bharatiya Janata Party, Indian National Congress. • There are six recognized national parties in the country as per notification of the Election Commission of India issued in 2023.They are as follows: 1) Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) 2) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

	3) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 4) Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPI-M) 5) Indian National Congress (INC) 6) National People's Party (NPP).
9	**What made the Parliament of India politically more and more diverse?** **OR** **How do State or Regional Political parties contribute in strengthening federalism and democracy in India?** Ans: Since 1996, nearly every one of the state parties has got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government. This has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy in our country.
10	**What are the challenges faced by the Political Parties in India?** Ans: • **Lack of internal democracy**: Across the world, political parties often concentrate power in one or a few top leaders. They don't keep member records, hold meetings, or conduct internal elections regularly. Ordinary members don't know much about what happens inside the party. So, leaders gain more control, and those who disagree find it hard to stay. Loyalty to the leader becomes more important than loyalty to party principles. • **Dynastic succession**: Most political parties lack open and transparent procedures, so leaders can favour their close ones or family members. In many parties, top posts stay within one family, which is unfair to other members. This also harms democracy, as people without enough experience or public support get powerful positions. • **Money and muscle power**: Since parties are focused 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. • **Absence of a meaningful choice**: In recent years, parties in many countries have fewer ideological differences, so voters don't get real choices. In Britain, the Labour and Conservative parties are quite similar. In India too, major parties have similar economic policies. People wanting different policies have no option, and the same leaders keep moving between parties.
11	**Describe in brief the recent efforts that have been made in India to reform political parties and its leaders.** Ans: Recent efforts to **reform political parties** and its leaders are as given below: • **Anti-defection law**: The Constitution was amended to stop elected MLAs and MPs from switching parties for personal benefit. Now, under the anti-defection law, if they change their party, they lose their seat. They also have to follow what their party leaders decide. • **Filing of an Affidavit**: The Supreme Court has made it mandatory for every candidate who contests an election to file an Affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. This has been done to reduce the influence of money and criminals. • **Mandatory organizational meeting and filing of ITR:** The Election Commission has made it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational elections and file their Income Tax Returns.

	Other important **suggestions** to reform political parties are: • A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties including the maintenance of a register of its members, following its own constitution, having an independent authority, act as a judge in case of party disputes and hold open elections to the highest posts. • It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum of one-third of the party tickets to women candidates. • There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money to support their election expenses in cash or in kind (petrol, paper, telephone, etc.) on the basis of the votes secured by the party in the last election. • People can pressurize political parties through petitions, publicity, and protests. Ordinary citizens, pressure groups, and movements along with media can play an important role in forcing the parties to keep a check on its reforms. • Public participation is essential in reforming the level of politics. Citizens, by directly joining political parties can contribute towards the betterment of the nature of politics.