



CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER 04

Political Parties



NCERT SOLUTIONS

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

QUESTION 1

State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.

ANSWER

1. **Contest elections:** Parties choose candidates and try to win people's votes.
 2. **Present policies:** They put forward policies and programmes. Voters can choose between these alternatives.
 3. **Make laws:** Party representatives in legislatures debate and pass laws. They usually follow their party's position.
 4. **Form and run governments:** Winning parties choose leaders and ministers to govern.
 5. **Act as opposition:** Parties outside the government question its decisions, criticise failures and offer alternatives.
 6. **Shape public opinion:** Parties raise issues through meetings, debates and campaigns.
 7. **Help people reach government:** Parties connect people with government officials and welfare schemes.
- Together, these functions help people take part in democratic government.

CHALLENGES FACED BY PARTIES

QUESTION 2

What are the various challenges faced by political parties?

ANSWER

1. Lack of internal democracy

Power often stays with a few top leaders. Members may not get regular meetings, information or a fair role in decisions.

2. Dynastic succession

Leaders may favour family members for important positions. This reduces opportunities for ordinary workers and talented outsiders.

3. Money and muscle power

Rich donors and powerful people can influence candidates and policies. Some parties support candidates who can win using money or force.

4. Lack of meaningful choice

Parties sometimes offer very similar policies. Leaders may also move between parties. Voters then find it hard to choose a genuinely different alternative.

REFORMS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

QUESTION 3

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

ANSWER - SUGGESTED REFORMS

1. Internal democracy:

Parties should maintain membership registers, follow their constitutions and hold open elections for top posts.

2. Fair dispute resolution:

An independent authority should settle disputes within a party.

3. Women's participation:

Parties should give about one-third of election tickets to women and reserve places for women in decision-making bodies.

4. Election funding:

Consider State funding of election expenses with clear rules. This could reduce dependence on wealthy donors.

5. Public pressure:

Citizens, the media and movements can demand reform through petitions, publicity and peaceful campaigns.

6. Participation:

People who want better parties should join them and help change how they work.

These are suggestions in the chapter, not a claim that all are already in force.

POLITICAL PARTY - MEANING AND FEATURES

QUESTION 4

What is a political party?

ANSWER 4

A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.

They agree on policies and programmes and try to persuade people to support them.

QUESTION 6 - FILL IN THE BLANK

A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government is called a _____.

ANSWER 6: political party

QUESTION 5

What are the characteristics of a political party?

ANSWER 5

- Members share policies and programmes about society.
- The party seeks public support through elections.
- It tries to win power and put its policies into practice.
- It represents particular interests and views. This is called partisanship.
- Its components are leaders, active members and followers.

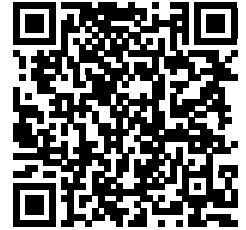


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