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Political Parties — CBSE Class 10 Social Science Chapter Test

FREE CHAPTER TEST · CLASS X · SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) · PATTERN OF THE CBSE SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER 2026-27

TIME ALLOWED	MAXIMUM MARKS	QUESTIONS	NAME / ROLL NO.
1½ hours	40	20 (A 10 · B 4 · C 3 · D 1 · E 2)	

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper contains 20 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into five sections: A, B, C, D and E.
3. In Section A, Questions 1 to 8 are multiple choice questions (MCQs) and Questions 9 and 10 are assertion-reason based questions of 1 mark each.
4. In Section B, Q11–14 are very short answer (VSA) type questions, carrying 2 marks each.
5. In Section C, Q15–17 are short answer (SA) type questions, carrying 3 marks each.
6. In Section D, Q18 is a long answer (LA) type question, carrying 5 marks.
7. In Section E, Q19–20 are case study based questions, carrying 4 marks each, with sub-parts of the values of 1, 1 and 2 marks.
8. There is no overall choice. However, an internal choice has been provided in 1 question of Section B, 1 question of Section C, 1 question of Section D and in the 2-mark sub-part of each question of Section E.
9. Answer very short answer questions in about 40 words, short answer questions in about 60 words, long answer questions in about 120 words and case-based questions in about 100 words.
10. This chapter test follows the section structure, question types and marks per question of the CBSE Class X Social Science (087) Sample Question Paper 2026-27, at about half the length of the 80-mark board paper: 40 marks in 1½ hours.
11. The answer key and the marking scheme are at the end of this booklet. Attempt the paper in 1½ hours before you look at them.

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Chapter: Political Parties (Political Science: Democratic Politics – II) · **Topics:** Meaning and components of a political party · Functions of political parties · Why parties are necessary · Party systems · National and State parties · Challenges to political parties · Reforming political parties

SECTION A

This section comprises 10 questions of 1 mark each: 8 multiple choice questions (MCQs) and 2 assertion-reason based questions.

1. Which of the following countries has a two-party system? 1

(A) China
(B) India
(C) United States of America
(D) Belgium

2. 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 recognised as a 1

(A) state party
(B) national party
(C) ruling party
(D) regional alliance

3. Party X wins 7 per cent of the votes and 3 seats in the assembly election of one State. Party Y wins 9 per cent of the votes but only 1 seat in another State. Which of them meets the condition for recognition as a State party? 1

(A) Both X and Y
(B) Only Y
(C) Neither
(D) Only X

4. Which of the following is NOT a function of political parties in a democracy? 1

(A) Contesting elections
(B) Putting forward policies and programmes
(C) Delivering judgements in courts
(D) Playing the role of opposition

5. Why can large modern democracies not do without political parties? 1

(A) Parties deliver judgements in disputes
(B) Representative government needs parties to gather different views and present them to the government
(C) Parties print and issue currency
(D) Parties appoint the Election Commission

6. Which kind of party system does India have? 1

(A) A multiparty system
(B) A one-party system
(C) A two-party system
(D) A no-party system

7. Which of the following is an example of an alliance or front of political parties in India? 1

(A) The Election Commission
(B) The Lok Sabha
(C) The Supreme Court
(D) The National Democratic Alliance (NDA)

8. When the ideological differences among the major parties have reduced, so that voters cannot choose between very different policies, the challenge is called 1

(A) dynastic succession
(B) lack of a meaningful choice
(C) lack of internal democracy
(D) money and muscle power

9. **Assertion (A):** Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy. 1
Reason (R): Without parties, every candidate would be independent, no one could make promises to the country about major policy changes, and no one would be responsible for how the country is run.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

10. **Assertion (A):** A multiparty system always leads to stable governments. 1
Reason (R): In a multiparty system, several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power, either on their own or in alliance.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

SECTION B

This section comprises 4 very short answer (VSA) type questions of 2 marks each.

11. (a) What is a political party? Name its three components. 2

OR

(b) What is the role of the Election Commission in the recognition of political parties? What do recognised parties get?

12. What are the conditions for a party to be recognised as a national party? 2

13. Explain the meaning of 'partisanship' and 'defection'. 2

14. Why is a one-party system not a good option for a democracy? 2

SECTION C

This section comprises 3 short answer (SA) type questions of 3 marks each.

15. (a) Describe any three functions of political parties. 3

OR

(b) Distinguish between a two-party and a multiparty system, with examples. What is one merit and one demerit of a multiparty system?

16. Describe any three challenges faced by political parties in India. 3

17. Explain three steps taken in India to reform political parties and their leaders. 3

SECTION D

This section comprises 1 long answer (LA) type questions of 5 marks each.

18. (a) 'Political parties need to face and overcome many challenges.' Suggest five ways in which political parties can be reformed. 5

OR

(b) 'Political parties are the most visible institutions in a democracy.' Explain five functions they perform that justify this statement.

SECTION E

This section comprises 2 case study based questions of 4 marks each, with sub-parts of 1, 1 and 2 marks.

19. In most democracies, the Election Commission registers political parties and gives some of them the status of recognised parties. In India, a party may be recognised as a State party or as a national party, depending on its share of votes and seats.

(i) What does the Election Commission give to a recognised party? [1]

(ii) A party secures 8 per cent of votes in the Assembly elections of five States and wins 3 seats in the Lok Sabha. Is it a national party? [1]

(iii) Why do parties seek recognition from the Election Commission? Give two reasons. [2]

OR

(iii) What are 'State parties'? Why is it wrong to call them 'regional parties' in every case? [2]

20. Political parties in India face several challenges, which are widely discussed by citizens and in the media. Several reforms have been attempted, while some other suggestions are still being discussed.

(i) Which reform tried to stop elected representatives from changing parties? [1]

(ii) What is meant by dynastic succession? [1]

(iii) Why do money and muscle power play a growing role in political parties? Explain with two points. [2]

OR

(iii) Give two suggestions to reduce the influence of money and criminals in politics. [2]

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
(C)	(A)	(D)	(C)	(B)	(A)	(D)	(B)	(A)	(D)

MARKING SCHEME AND WORKED SOLUTIONS

Marks for each step are shown in brackets, as in the CBSE marking scheme. Any correct alternative method earns full marks.

Q1. Answer (C). In the USA and the UK power usually changes between two main parties; China allows only one party; India has a multiparty system.

Q2. Answer (A). This is the Election Commission's condition for recognition as a State party.

Q3. Answer (D). Both conditions are needed: at least 6 per cent of the votes and at least two seats. X meets both; Y has only one seat.

Q4. Answer (C). Courts deliver judgements; parties contest elections, put forward policies, make laws, form and run governments, play opposition and shape public opinion.

Q5. Answer (B). Large societies need representative democracy; parties gather different views on various issues, present them to the government and make responsible government possible.

Q6. Answer (A). India has a multiparty system: several parties compete for power, and more than two have a reasonable chance of coming to power on their own or in alliance.

Q7. Answer (D). The National Democratic Alliance, the United Progressive Alliance and the Left Front are alliances of several parties formed to contest elections and win power.

Q8. Answer (B). This is the lack of a meaningful choice; dynastic succession, lack of internal democracy and money and muscle power are the other challenges.

Q9. Answer (A). Both true, and R explains A: parties make representative government possible on a large scale. Answer (A).

Q10. Answer (D). A is false: a multiparty system often appears very messy and can lead to political instability, though it allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy representation. R is true. Answer (D).

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: (a) group that contests elections to hold power for collective good; leaders, active members, followers; (b) registration and recognition; unique symbol and facilities.
(a) 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 society with a view to promote the collective good. [1]
Its three components are the leaders, the active members and the followers. [1]
OR (b) Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission; parties that get a certain proportion of votes and seats are recognised. [1]
Recognised parties are given a unique symbol that only their official candidates can use, and some other special facilities. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: 6 per cent of votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four States, and at least four Lok Sabha seats.
A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four States, [1] and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha, is recognised as a national party. [1]

Q13. (2 marks) Answer: Partisanship: taking sides; defection: changing party after election.
Partisanship: a tendency to take a side; it is marked by an inclination to take sides and an inability to take a balanced view on an issue (parties reflect a fundamental political division in society). [1]
Defection: changing party allegiance from the party on whose ticket a person got elected (to a legislative body) to a different party. [1]

Q14. (2 marks) Answer: No competition and no real choice for voters.
A 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. [1]
In a one-party system there is no meaningful choice for the voters: the people cannot replace the ruling party, as in China, where only the Communist Party is allowed to rule. [1]

Q15. (3 marks) Answer: (a) contest elections; policies and laws; form governments, opposition, shape opinion; (b) two-party with examples; multiparty with example; instability vs representation.
(a) Parties contest elections; in most democracies elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by political parties. [1]
Parties put forward different policies and programmes, and the voters choose from them; they also play a decisive role in making laws for the country. [1]
Parties form and run governments; those that lose play the role of opposition, criticising the government and mobilising opposition. They also shape public opinion and provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes. [1]
OR (b) Two-party system: power usually changes between two main parties; several other parties may exist, but only the two have a serious chance of winning a majority of seats (USA, UK). [1]
Multiparty system: several parties compete for power and more than two have a reasonable chance of coming to power, on their own or in alliance (India). [1]
A multiparty system can appear messy and lead to instability, but it allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation. [1]

Q16. (3 marks) Answer: Lack of internal democracy; dynastic succession and money and muscle power; lack of meaningful choice.
Lack of internal democracy: power is concentrated in one or few leaders at the top; parties do not keep membership registers or hold organisational meetings and internal elections regularly. [1]
Dynastic succession: top positions are usually controlled by members of one family, which is unfair to other members; and the growing role of money and muscle power, especially during elections. [1]
Lack of meaningful choice: the parties no longer offer a meaningful choice to the voters, as the ideological differences among them have reduced. [1]

Q17. (3 marks) Answer: Anti-defection law; candidate affidavits; organisational elections and tax returns.
The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties (anti-defection law). [1]
The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals: every candidate must file an affidavit giving details of his or her property and criminal cases pending. [1]
The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns. [1]

Q18. (5 marks) Answer: (a) law on internal affairs; one-third tickets to women; state funding; public pressure; joining parties; (b) five functions.
(a) A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties: maintaining a register of members, following their own constitution, an independent authority to act as judge in party disputes, and open elections to the highest posts. [1]
It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates; there should also be a quota for women in the decision-making bodies of the party. [1]
There should be state funding of elections: the government should give parties money to support their election expenses, in kind (petrol, paper, telephone) or in cash on the basis of votes secured. [1]
People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and agitations; pressure groups, movements and the media can also play an important role. [1]
Political parties can improve if those who want this join political parties; the quality of democracy depends on the degree of public participation. [1]
OR (b) Parties contest elections by putting up candidates; candidates may be chosen by members and supporters or by top leaders. [1]
Parties put forward different policies and programmes; a government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the ruling party. [1]
Parties play a decisive role in making laws; most members of the legislature belong to a party and go by the direction of the party leadership. [1]
Parties form and run governments; parties that lose elections play the role of opposition, voicing different views and criticising the government. [1]
Parties shape public opinion, raising and highlighting issues, and provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes. [1]

Q19. (4 marks) Answer: (i) unique symbol; (ii) no, fewer than four seats; (iii)(a) symbol and facilities; (b) recognised in a State; may be all-India in outlook.
(i) A unique symbol, which only its official candidates can use. [1]
(ii) No: it meets the vote condition (6 per cent in four or more States) but wins fewer than four Lok Sabha seats. [1]
(iii)(a) Recognised parties get a unique symbol that voters can identify with the party. [1]
They also get other special facilities from the Election Commission. [1]
OR (iii)(b) Parties recognised by the Election Commission on the basis of their votes and seats in a State are State parties. [1]
They need not be regional in their ideology or outlook; some of them are all-India parties that happen to have succeeded only in some States. [1]

Q20. (4 marks) Answer: (i) anti-defection law; (ii) one family controls top posts; (iii)(a) winning at any cost, rich donors and criminals; (b) affidavits, state funding.
(i) The anti-defection law (an amendment of the Constitution). [1]
(ii) Top positions in a party are controlled by members of one family, so ordinary workers rarely rise to the top. [1]
(iii)(a) Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts; they nominate candidates who have or can raise lots of money. [1]
Rich people and companies who give funds to parties tend to influence their policies, and in some cases parties support criminals who can win elections. [1]
OR (iii)(b) Candidates must file affidavits giving details of their property and criminal cases (as ordered by the Supreme Court). [1]
State funding of elections, so that parties depend less on rich donors. [1]

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