CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

Social Science – Political Science

Subject Code: 087 | Class X

Question Bank – Set 1

Questions in this Booklet

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MCQs = Multiple Choice; A-R = Assertion–Reason; VSA = Very Short Answer; SA = Short Answer; LA = Long Answer; CS = Case Study / Source-based.

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1. Power-sharing

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which one of the following is the minority group in Sri Lanka? **[1]**

[Board 2023 Comptt]

(a) Tamils (b) Christians (c) Sinhalese (d) Muslims

Q2. What percentage of the population of Belgium lives in the Flemish region? **[1]**

[Board 2023]

(a) 40% (b) 59% (c) 80% (d) 70%

Q3. Which of the following languages is spoken by most people in Belgium? **[1]**

[Board 2026 Second]

(a) English (b) German (c) French (d) Dutch

Q4. Which of the following statements about the Belgian model of power sharing is INCORRECT? **[1]**

[SQP 2022-23]

(a) Equal number of Dutch and French speaking ministers in the central government
(b) State governments subordinate to the central government
(c) A separate government for Brussels with equal representation of communities
(d) A community government elected by people of one language community

Q5. Power shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, executive and judiciary is called:**[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

(a) horizontal distribution of power (b) vertical division of power
(c) community government (d) coalition government

Q6. You are a citizen of a democratic country and want to ensure that no branch of government has absolute power. Which measure best meets this goal? **[1]**

[SQP 2023-24]

(a) Concentrating all power in the legislature
(b) Dividing power between the central government and states
(c) Separating power among the legislative, executive and judicial branches
(d) Sharing power among national, regional and local governments

Q7. What role do 'checks and balances' play in a democratic country? **[1]**

(a) To establish a direct form of government without representatives
(b) To ensure absolute power for one branch of government
(c) To prevent any change to the Constitution
(d) To create separation of powers to prevent authoritarianism

Q8. Which one of the following was NOT a majoritarian measure adopted by Sri Lanka? **[1]**

(a) Declaring Sinhala the only official language
(b) Favouring Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs
(c) Giving equal representation to Tamils in the government
(d) Protecting and promoting Buddhism through constitutional provisions

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** Sri Lanka adopted 'Tamil' as the official language of the State.
Reason (R): The government of Sri Lanka adopted a series of majoritarian measures. **[1]**

(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.

Q10. **Assertion (A):** Belgium and Sri Lanka both adopted majoritarian measures after becoming independent nations.
Reason (R): Majoritarian measures establish the supremacy of the majority community. **[1]**
(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.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** The civil war in Sri Lanka resulted from the failure of political accommodation of ethnicity.
Reason (R): The distrust between the Sinhala and Tamil communities turned into widespread conflict. **[1]**
(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.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q12. Why did the feeling of alienation increase among the Sri Lankan Tamils in 1956? Explain. **[2]**

[Board 2023]

Q13. Describe the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka. **[2]**

[Board 2024]

Q14. How were the powers shared between the central and state governments in Belgium to avoid the division of the country? Explain. **[2]**

[SQP 2026-27]

Q15. Why did Belgium adopt power sharing, while Sri Lanka faced a civil war over its ethnic question? Give one reason for each. **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Describe three provisions through which Belgium solved its problem. **[3]**

[Board 2024]

Q17. 'In modern democracies, power sharing arrangements can take many forms.' Explain the statement. **[3]**

Q18. Explain any three reasons why the Belgian model of accommodation succeeded. **[3]**

Q19. Explain how the system of checks and balances works in India. Give examples. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. Explain with examples the accommodative experience of Belgium for peace and harmony. **[5]**

[SQP 2019-20]

Q21. 'Prudential and moral reasons together make power sharing desirable in a democracy.' Examine the statement. **[5]**

Q22. Explain how power sharing among various organs of government operates and why it is necessary. **[5]**

Case Study

Case Study: Forms of Power-sharing The idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. For a long time, it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it

would not be possible to take quick decisions and to enforce them. But these notions have changed with the emergence of democracy. One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power. In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-government. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies. Therefore, it follows that in a democracy, political power should be distributed among as many citizens as possible.

Q23. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

[Board 2026]

(i) How does power sharing promote stability of political order? [1]

(ii) How are political parties part of the power sharing mechanism? [1]

(iii) How does power sharing contribute to the spirit of democracy? [2]

Case Study: Why share power? The two different sets of reasons can be called prudential and moral. The prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order. Imposing the will of majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation. Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often brings ruin to the majority as well. The moral reasons for power sharing stress that the very act of power sharing is valuable. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.

Q24. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

(i) What is meant by the tyranny of the majority? [1]

(ii) Why is power sharing called a good way to ensure political stability? [1]

(iii) Distinguish between prudential and moral reasons for power sharing with one example each. [2]

2. Federalism

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which one of the following is the best example of 'coming together federation'? **[1]**

[Board 2023]

(a) India (b) USA (c) Belgium (d) Spain

Q2. Which one of the following subjects comes under the legislation of both the Centre and the States in India? **[1]**

[SQP 2022-23]

(a) Defence (b) Banking (c) Education (d) Currency

Q3. Identify the correct statement(s) about the theory of federalism in the Indian Constitution. I. The Constitution declared India as a Union of States. II. Sharing of power between the Union Government and the State governments is basic to the structure of the Constitution. III. It is easy to make changes to this power sharing arrangement. IV. The Parliament can on its own change this arrangement. **[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

(a) II and IV (b) II and III (c) I and III (d) I and II

Q4. Which one of the following is an example of 'holding together federation'? **[1]**

[SQP 2024-25]

(a) India (b) Switzerland (c) USA (d) Australia

Q5. Which of the following statements about federalism in the Indian Constitution are correct? 1. India is declared as a Union of States. 2. Power-sharing between the Union and State governments is a basic feature. 3. The power-sharing arrangement is easy to change. 4. Changes in power-sharing require a 1/3rd majority in both houses of Parliament. **[1]**

[SQP 2024-25]

(a) 1 and 3 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 1 and 2 (d) 2 and 4

Q6. Identify the administrative level of Indian government with the help of the information given in the box and choose the correct option. 1. Power shared between Central to Local Government. 2. The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with them. 3. It is called a three-tier government. **[1]**

[Board 2023]

(a) Dictatorial System (b) Unitary Federal System
(c) Imperialistic System (d) Decentralized System

Q7. Read the given statements regarding rural local government in India and choose the correct option. i. Rural local government is known as Panchayati Raj. ii. Each village or group of villages has a Gram Panchayat. iii. Panch and Sarpanch of villages are selected by the Election Commission of India. iv. Panchayat works under the supervision of Gram Sabha. **[1]**

[Board 2026]

(a) only i, iii and iv are correct. (b) only i, ii and iv are correct.
(c) only ii, iii and iv are correct. (d) only i, ii and iii are correct.

Q8. Which one of the following pairs of countries is correctly matched with their type of federation? I. USA – Coming together II. Switzerland – Coming together III. India – Holding together IV. Spain – Coming together **[1]**

(a) I, II and III (b) II, III and IV (c) I, II and IV (d) I, III and IV

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** The fundamental provisions of a federal constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government.
Reason (R): Changes to the federal arrangement require the consent of both levels of government. **[1]**

(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.

Q10. **Assertion (A):** India has a single integrated judiciary.
Reason (R): The High Courts and the Supreme Court settle disputes about the division of powers in India. **[1]**
(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.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** Federalism is a system of government in which sovereignty is constitutionally divided between a central authority and constituent political units.
Reason (R): Each level of government has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration. **[1]**
(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.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q12. Mention any two reasons to state that India is a federal country. **[2]**

[SQP 2021-22]

Q13. Examine the role of the Constitution in the federal system of India in two points. **[2]**

[Board 2025 (OR alternative)]

Q14. Name the three-tier government of rural local self-government in India. **[2]**

Q15. Distinguish between 'coming together' and 'holding together' federations. **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Describe any three features of Indian federalism. **[3]**

[SQP 2021-22]

Q17. 'Federal form of government is in direct contrast to the Unitary form of government.' Explain the statement. **[3]**

[Board 2025 Comptt]

Q18. Describe any three characteristics of the Indian federal system. **[3]**

[Board 2025]

Q19. How does the judiciary act as the guardian of federalism in India? Explain with examples. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. 'The Constitution declared India as a Union of States. Although it did not use the word federation, the Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism.' What makes India a federal country? **[5]**

[SQP 2021-22]

Q21. Explain how the federal system of India works, with examples from the three lists. **[5]**

Q22. 'Decentralisation is the third tier of Indian democracy.' Explain the need for decentralisation and the steps taken since 1992. **[5]**

Case Study

Case Study: Linguistic diversity of India How many languages do we have in India? The answer depends on how one counts it. The latest information that we have is from the Census of India held in 2011. This census recorded more than 1300 distinct languages which people mentioned as their mother tongues. These languages were grouped together under some major languages. For example, languages like Bhojpuri, Magadhi, Bundelkhandi, Chhattisgarhi, Rajasthani and many others were grouped together under 'Hindi'. Even after this grouping, the Census found 121 major languages. Of these, 22 languages are now included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and are therefore called 'Scheduled Languages'. Others are called 'Non-Scheduled Languages'. In terms of languages, India is perhaps the most diverse country in the world.

Q23. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

[Board 2024]

(i) How many languages were recorded as mother tongues in the 2011 Census of India? [1]

(ii) How were the languages grouped together in the Census report? [1]

(iii) How does the inclusion of languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution contribute to linguistic diversity? Explain. [2]

Case Study: Union, State and Concurrent Lists The Constitution of India provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative subjects between the Union Government and the State Governments. The Union List includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, currency and communication. The State List includes subjects of local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The Concurrent List includes subjects of common interest to both the Union and the States, such as education, forests, trade unions, marriage and adoption. The Union Government alone can make laws on the Union List subjects; the State Governments alone can legislate on the State List subjects; both can legislate on the Concurrent List, but in case of conflict the law made by the Union Government prevails. There are some subjects, like computer software, that came up only after the Constitution was created; these are called residuary subjects and rest with the Union Government.

Q24. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

(i) Why are subjects like defence and foreign affairs included in the Union List? [1]

(ii) What happens when a Union law and a state law on a Concurrent List subject conflict? [1]

(iii) Explain the residuary powers in India with the help of an example. [2]

3. Gender, Religion and Caste

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. In which one of the following regions is the participation of women in public life the highest? **[1]**

[Board 2023]

(a) Asian countries (b) Arab states (c) European countries (d) Nordic countries

Q2. Which of the following statements best describes a feminist movement? **[1]**

[SQP 2022-23]

(a) A group which favours giving more power to working women at rural and urban level.
(b) A movement that believes in giving exclusive rights to females in urban areas.
(c) The practice of placing a feminine and masculine point of view in decision making.
(d) Radical women's movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well.

Q3. Two statements, I and II are given below. Read both the statements and choose the correct option. Statement I: Women are now actively contributing to various professions including roles as doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers and university teachers. Statement II: Political expression of gender division and political mobilisation helped to improve women's role in public life. **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) Statements I and II are true and II is the correct explanation of I.
(b) Statement I is false, but II is true.
(c) Statement I is true, but II is false.
(d) Statements I and II are true, but II is not the correct explanation of I.

Q4. Which of the following practices is a form of communalism in politics? **[1]**

(a) Reservation of seats for women in panchayats
(b) Use of religious symbols and leaders to mobilise voters
(c) Interpretation of the Constitution by courts
(d) Holding regular elections

Q5. The system of reserved constituencies in India is a constitutional response to: **[1]**

(a) religious divisions
(b) linguistic divisions
(c) historical injustice faced by SCs, STs and OBCs in politics
(d) regional divisions

Q6. Read the following statements about caste in Indian politics and choose the correct option. I. No parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one single caste. II. No party wins the votes of all voters of a caste. III. The ruling party and sitting MPs or MLAs frequently lose elections. IV. Elections in India are all about caste and nothing else. **[1]**

(a) I, II and III (b) II, III and IV (c) I, III and IV (d) I, II and IV

Q7. The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work. What does the chapter say about its implementation? **[1]**

(a) It is fully implemented everywhere.
(b) Women are paid less than men almost everywhere, even for exactly the same work.
(c) It applies only to government jobs.
(d) It has been repealed.

Q8. A 'vote bank' of a caste for a party means: **[1]**

(a) every voter of that caste votes for the party
(b) no voter of that caste votes for the party
(c) a large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for the party, not all
(d) the caste does not exist in the constituency

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** The Indian state can intervene in religious matters.
Reason (R): The Constitution allows intervention to ensure equality within religious communities. **[1]**
(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.

Q10. **Assertion (A):** Despite the Equal Wages Act, women in India are often paid less than men for the same work.
Reason (R): The Act has been repealed. **[1]**
(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.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** The sexual division of labour assigns housework and care-giving to women.
Reason (R): Men are expected to work outside the home and engage in public life. **[1]**
(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.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q12. 'The role of women is gradually enhancing in the politics of the country.' Examine the statement. **[2]**

[Board 2025]

Q13. 'Communalism is harmful for the nation.' Explain. **[2]**

[Board 2025]

Q14. 'The Constitution of India prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.' Justify the statement by giving two arguments. **[2]**

[Board 2023]

Q15. Suggest any two ways to promote women's entrepreneurship in the economy. **[2]**

[Board 2026 Second]

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Explain any three constitutional provisions that make India a secular state. **[3]**

[Board 2024]

Q17. 'Caste has not disappeared from contemporary India.' Explain any three reasons. **[3]**

Q18. Explain any three reasons why women are under-represented in Indian legislatures. **[3]**

Q19. Explain the idea that 'communal politics is a threat to democracy'. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. 'Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways even today.' Assess the statement by giving five suitable arguments. **[5]**

[SQP 2017-18]

Q21. Suggest any five measures to establish gender equality of labour. **[5]**

[Board 2025 Comptt (OR alternative)]

Q22. Explain the positive and negative aspects of caste in Indian politics. **[5]**

Case Study

Case Study: Social and religious diversity The Census of India records the religion of each and every Indian after every ten years. The person who fills the Census form visits every household and records the religion of each member of that household exactly the way each person describes it. If someone says she has 'no religion' or that he is an 'atheist', this is exactly how it is recorded. Thus we have reliable information on the proportion of different religious communities in the country and how it has changed over the years. The record shows the population proportion of six major religious communities in the country. Since Independence, the total population of each community has increased substantially.

Q23. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

[Board 2024 Comptt]

(i) At what interval is the Census conducted in India? [1]

(ii) Why are Indian Census data considered reliable? [1]

(iii) How is the Census an important tool to understand the social diversity in India? [2]

Case Study: Caste and elections The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else. That is far from true. No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. So, every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections. When people say that a caste is a 'vote bank' of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for that party. Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste, if that caste is believed to dominate the electorate in a particular constituency. Some voters have more than one candidate from their own caste, while many voters have no candidate from their own caste.

Q24. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

(i) What is meant by a caste being a 'vote bank' of a party? [1]

(ii) Why must candidates seek support beyond a single caste? [1]

(iii) Explain why elections in India are not all about caste. Give two points. [2]

4. Political Parties

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which one of the following countries has a two-party system? **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) United States of America (b) Pakistan
(c) China (d) France

Q2. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? (Regional Parties — Region) **[1]**

[Board 2025 Comptt]

(a) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam — Tamil Nadu (b) Rashtriya Janata Dal — West Bengal
(c) People's Democratic Party — Uttar Pradesh (d) All India Forward Bloc — Gujarat

Q3. Which of the following are the main components of a political party? I. Leaders II. Active members III. Followers IV. Pressure groups **[1]**

[Board 2025]

(a) Only I, II and IV are correct. (b) Only II, III and IV are correct.
(c) Only I, III and IV are correct. (d) Only I, II and III are correct.

Q4. Which of the following made it mandatory for candidates contesting elections to disclose details of their assets and pending criminal cases through an affidavit? **[1]**

[Board 2026 Second]

(a) The Political Parties of India (b) The Central Government of India
(c) The Law Commission of India (d) The Supreme Court of India

Q5. Which of the following best defines a political party? **[1]**

(a) A group of judges interpreting laws
(b) An organisation of civil servants implementing policies
(c) A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government
(d) A pressure group influencing the government from outside

Q6. The 'challenge of dynastic succession' in political parties means: **[1]**

(a) parties rotate leaders regularly
(b) top positions remain controlled by members of one family
(c) parties elect leaders through internal elections
(d) parties choose leaders by merit contests

Q7. Which of the following is a suggested reform for political parties in India? I. A law to regulate the internal affairs of parties. II. Mandatory maintenance of a register of members. III. Minimum one-third tickets to women candidates. IV. State funding of elections. **[1]**

(a) Only I and IV (b) I, II, III and IV
(c) Only II, III and IV (d) Only I, II and III

Q8. An ordinary worker in a party finds it difficult to rise to the top because: **[1]**

(a) parties hold open competitive internal elections regularly
(b) all parties rotate leadership by lottery
(c) power is concentrated with a few leaders who favour those close to them
(d) workers are paid to stay out of leadership

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** India has a multi-party system.
Reason (R): It is because of the social and geographical diversities in India. **[1]**

(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.

Q10. **Assertion (A):** A multi-party system has been adopted in India.
Reason (R): It is capable of accommodating all the social and geographical differences in India. **[1]**
(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.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** Political parties shape public opinion.
Reason (R): They raise and highlight issues and launch movements for the solution of people's problems. **[1]**
(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.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q12. Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain. **[2]**

[Board 2023]

Q13. What are the three components of a political party? **[2]**

Q14. Why do political parties play a decisive role in making laws? **[2]**

Q15. What is the role of the Election Commission in regulating political parties? State any two. **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Explain any three functions of political parties. **[3]**

[Board 2023]

Q17. Analyse the role of political parties in making laws in India. **[3]**

[Board 2024 Comptt]

Q18. Explain any three features of a one-party system. **[3]**

[Board 2023 Comptt]

Q19. Explain the three challenges of lack of internal democracy, dynastic succession and money-muscle power faced by Indian parties. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. Examine the role of political parties in a democracy. **[5]**

[SQP 2021-22]

Q21. Illustrate the situations which display lack of internal democracy within a political party. **[5]**

[SQP 2018-19]

Q22. 'Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.' Analyse the statement with relevant points. **[5]**

[SQP 2024-25]

Case Study

Case Study: Need for political parties Political parties are easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy. For most ordinary citizens, democracy is equal to political parties. If you travel to remote parts of our country and speak to the less educated citizens, you could come across people who may not know anything about our Constitution or about the nature of our government. But chances are that they would know something about our political parties. At the same time, this visibility does not mean popularity. Most people tend to be very critical of political parties. They tend to blame parties for all that is wrong with our democracy and our political life. Parties have become identified with social and political divisions. Therefore, it is natural to ask if we need political parties at all? About a hundred years ago, there were few countries in the world that had any political party. Now there are few that do not have parties.

Q23. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

[SQP 2026-27]

(i) 'Modern democracies cannot exist without political parties.' Analyse the given statement by giving one reason to support your answer. [1]

(ii) Highlight any two functions of a political party. [2]

(iii) Why has India opted for a multi-party system? Give any one reason to support your answer. [1]

Case Study: Money and muscle in elections The challenge of money and muscle power has become prominent in Indian elections. Since parties are focused on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts. They tend to nominate those candidates who can raise 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. There is evidence that criminals are now increasingly in politics. In many constituencies, candidates with criminal records have an advantage because muscle power can influence voters and poll workers. Money and muscle power have become the order of the day, and ordinary citizens find it difficult to contest or to have their voices heard.

Q24. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

(i) Why do parties nominate rich candidates? [1]

(ii) How do donors influence parties? [1]

(iii) Explain two consequences of money and muscle power for democracy. [2]

5. Outcomes of Democracy

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which type of government is likely to be more acceptable to the people in the world? **[1]**

[Board 2023]

(a) Military (b) Democratic (c) Dictatorship (d) Theocratic

Q2. Read the following characteristics of democracy and choose the correct option. I. Free and fair elections II. Equality before law III. Dignity of a person IV. Majority rule **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) Only I, II and III are correct.
(b) Only II, III and IV are correct.
(c) Only I, III and IV are correct.
(d) Only I, II and IV are correct.

Q3. People's right to choose their own rulers is called the right to _____. **[1]**

[SQP 2020-21 (extract)]

(a) Initiate (b) Plebiscite (c) Vote (d) Referendum

Q4. Which one of the following is the most popular form of government in the contemporary world? **[1]**

(a) Dictatorial Government
(b) Constitutional Monarchy
(c) Military Government
(d) Democratic Government

Q5. Which one of the following is an intrinsic reason to value democracy, independent of its outcomes? **[1]**

(a) It removes all corruption
(b) It always gives the fastest growth
(c) It eliminates poverty
(d) It is the people's own government based on political equality

Q6. Which one of the following best describes a 'legitimate' government? **[1]**

(a) A government imposed by the army
(b) A government of one party
(c) A government chosen freely by the people through elections
(d) A government formed by wealthy families

Q7. Which of the following statements about democracy's treatment of caste is TRUE? **[1]**

(a) Democracy has abolished all caste-based inequality overnight
(b) People can demand equal treatment openly, strengthening disadvantaged castes' claims
(c) Caste discrimination is legal in a democracy
(d) Democracy has no impact on caste inequalities

Q8. Which of the following would you associate with the 'values of democracy' inherited from India's freedom struggle? I. Liberty II. Equality III. Fraternity IV. Dictatorship of the majority **[1]**

(a) I, II and III (b) II, III and IV (c) I, III and IV (d) I, II and IV

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** Democracy is a legitimate form of government.
Reason (R): In a democracy, all groups connect with the governance system through their participation. **[1]**

(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.

Q10. **Assertion (A):** Economic growth rates of democracies are not very different from those of dictatorships.
Reason (R): Democracy cannot be said to be the cause of higher growth, nor of lower growth. **[1]**

(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.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** Democracies are successful in completely removing poverty and inequality.
Reason (R): In a democracy, governments have to answer to the people. **[1]**
(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.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q12. 'Democracy is a better form of government compared with any other alternative.' Examine the statement. **[2]**

[Board 2026]

Q13. Differentiate between democracy and dictatorship. **[2]**

[Board 2026]

Q14. What is meant by an 'accountable government'? **[2]**

Q15. What is 'transparency' in a democratic government? **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. 'Democracy enhances the dignity and freedom of individuals.' Support the statement. **[3]**

[Board 2022 Comptt]

Q17. 'Democratic government is a legitimate government.' Support the statement with suitable arguments. **[3]**

[Board 2022 Comptt]

Q18. How does democracy establish an accountable, responsible and legitimate governance? Explain. **[3]**

[Board 2025]

Q19. How is democracy a better form of government when compared with dictatorship or any other alternative government? **[3]**

[SQP 2018-19 MS]

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. 'Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.' Support the statement with examples. **[5]**

[Board 2023]

Q21. 'Dignity and freedom of people are the basis of democracy.' Explain the statement with arguments. **[5]**

[Board 2024]

Q22. 'Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.' Support the statement with examples. **[5]**

[SQP 2021-22 MS]

Case Study

Case Study: Outcomes of democracy: accountable and transparent government In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making that affects them all. Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. Some people think that democracy produces less effective government. It is true that non-democratic rulers are very quick and efficient in decision making, whereas democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place. But, because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. When citizens want to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, they can find this out. They have the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency, a factor often missing from a non-democratic government. Democratic government is also legitimate government. But a democratic government is people's own government.

Q23. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

[SQP 2020-21 (extract)]

(i) Which right of citizens lets them choose their own rulers? [1]

(ii) Which law helps citizens examine the process of government decision-making? [1]

(iii) How is democratic government better than its alternatives despite its delays? Give two reasons. [2]

Case Study: Dignity and freedom of the individual Take the case of women. In a society that is male-dominated, it is very difficult for women to get a fair deal. Democracy in real life strengthens the claims of women. Women all over the world have fought for equal political and social rights, and their claims are now publicly recognised. Take the case of the dignity of Dalits in India. Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the untouchables and other disadvantaged castes: their equal treatment is now legally enforceable, and no one may practice untouchability. Every individual, whatever their caste, religion or gender, can openly demand equal treatment. This is the strong foundation on which the passion for respect and freedom rests — and that passion is the basis of all democratic struggles.

Q24. Read the source above and answer the questions that follow. **[4]**

(i) How has democracy strengthened the claims of women? [1]

(ii) What legal protection do Dalits have in Indian democracy? [1]

(iii) How does democracy protect the dignity of the individual? Give two points. [2]

Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason)

Ch. 1: Q1-(a), Q2-(b), Q3-(d), Q4-(b), Q5-(a), Q6-(c), Q7-(d), Q8-(c), Q9-(d), Q10-(d), Q11-(a)

Ch. 2: Q1-(b), Q2-(c), Q3-(d), Q4-(a), Q5-(c), Q6-(d), Q7-(b), Q8-(a), Q9-(a), Q10-(a), Q11-(a)

Ch. 3: Q1-(d), Q2-(d), Q3-(a), Q4-(b), Q5-(c), Q6-(a), Q7-(b), Q8-(c), Q9-(a), Q10-(c), Q11-(a)

Ch. 4: Q1-(a), Q2-(a), Q3-(d), Q4-(d), Q5-(c), Q6-(b), Q7-(b), Q8-(c), Q9-(a), Q10-(a), Q11-(a)

Ch. 5: Q1-(b), Q2-(a), Q3-(c), Q4-(d), Q5-(d), Q6-(c), Q7-(b), Q8-(a), Q9-(a), Q10-(a), Q11-(d)