CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

Social Science – Political Science

Subject Code: 087 | Class X

Question Bank – Set 3

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. Read the arguments given in favour of power sharing and choose the correct option. I. It reduces the likelihood of bias in decision-making. II. It barricades the decision-making process. III. It accommodates diversities. IV. It increases the participation of people in power. **[1]**

[Board 2024]

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

Q2. Consider the following statements on power sharing and choose the correct option. I. Majoritarianism is the real spirit of democracy. II. Power sharing creates balance and harmony among different groups. III. It reduces the possibility of conflict among social groups. IV. Power sharing is the essence of democracy. **[1]**

[Board 2023]

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

Q3. Identify the appropriate reason for the introduction of 'Community Government' in Belgium. **[1]**

[Board 2023 Comptt]

(a) To enable power sharing among various political parties.
(b) To ensure power sharing among various organs of the government.
(c) To share power among different religious and linguistic social groups.
(d) To give more power to the Dutch speaking community.

Q4. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true with respect to the ethnic composition of Belgium? I. 59 per cent of the total population lives in the Wallonia region and speaks French. II. 40 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch. III. One per cent of Belgians speak German. IV. In Brussels, 80 per cent speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch speaking. **[1]**

[SQP 2025-26]

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

Q5. From a prudential viewpoint, which of the following arguments best supports the idea of power sharing? **[1]**

[SQP 2026-27]

(a) It reduces the chances of social unrest
(b) It upholds democratic ideals
(c) It is morally correct
(d) It guarantees equal economic growth for all sections

Q6. Consider the following statements on 'Power Sharing' and choose the correct option. I. It deepens democracy. II. It helps to reduce conflicts among social groups. III. It is a way to ensure political stability. IV. It brings socio-economic struggles. **[1]**

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

Q7. The Belgian leaders took a different path than Sri Lanka. They recognised the existence of regional differences and _____. **[1]**

(a) Religious diversities
(b) Historical diversities
(c) Administrative diversities
(d) Cultural diversities

Q8. Which of the following countries resolved its ethnic conflict through accommodation rather than majoritarianism? **[1]**

(a) Belgium (b) Sri Lanka (c) Pakistan (d) Nepal

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.

Reason (R): It ensures that power does not remain in one hand. **[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): Majoritarianism leads to national unity.
Reason (R): It alienates minority communities and can lead to civil war. **[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): Power sharing is the spirit of democracy.
Reason (R): A legitimate government is one where all groups connect with the government 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.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q12. How is horizontal power sharing different from vertical power sharing? Explain. **[2]**

[Board 2024]

Q13. Explain the effectiveness of the vertical distribution of power in the context of India. **[2]**

[Board 2025]

Q14. Explain the system of checks and balances among different organs of government. **[2]**

[Board 2026 Second]

Q15. Write any one prudential reason and any one moral reason for which power sharing is desirable. **[2]**

[SQP 2017-18 (adapted)]

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. 'The government measures gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.' Explain the statement. **[3]**

[Board 2025]

Q17. Explain any three forms of power sharing practised in modern democracies. **[3]**

Q18. Compare the power sharing models of Belgium and Sri Lanka on any three grounds. **[3]**

Q19. 'Prudential reasons make power sharing desirable, but moral reasons make it compulsory in a democracy.' Examine the statement. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. 'The path of accommodation adopted by Belgium kept the country together, while majoritarianism pushed Sri Lanka into civil war.' Compare and analyse the two experiences. **[5]**

Q21. How does the Belgian model of power sharing accommodate diversities and ensure stability? Explain. **[5]**

Q22. 'In a democracy, power sharing is both a virtue and a necessity.' Justify the statement with arguments and

examples. **[5]**

Case Study

Case Study: Ethnic composition of Belgium Belgium is a small country in Europe, smaller in area than the state of Haryana. It has borders with France, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg. It has a population of a little over one crore, about half the population of Haryana. The ethnic composition of this small country is very complex. Of the country's total population, 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks the Dutch language. Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining one per cent of the Belgian population speaks German. In the capital city Brussels, 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch speaking. The Dutch-speaking majority in the country as a whole, being a minority in its capital, posed a special problem.

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

[Board 2023]

(i) Explain the ethnic composition of Belgium. [1]

(ii) Explain the term 'ethnic'. [1]

(iii) How did the Belgian government solve its ethnic problem? Explain. [2]

Case Study: Belgium's four amendments The Belgian leaders took a different path. Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country. Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model: The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can take decisions unilaterally. Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country. The state governments are not subordinate to the central government.

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

(i) Why did Belgian leaders amend the constitution four times? [1]

(ii) How do special laws protect minority communities in Belgium? [1]

(iii) Describe the remaining elements of the Belgian model of power sharing. [2]

2. Federalism

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? (Subject List in the Indian Constitution) — (Subject) **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) Residuary Subjects — Marriages
(b) State List Subjects — Education
(c) Concurrent List Subjects — Adoption
(d) Union List Subjects — Communication

Q2. Match the Column I (Federal List) with Column II (Legislative Power) and choose the correct option. Column I: a. Union List, b. State List, c. Concurrent List, d. Residuary Subjects. Column II: i. Trade, ii. Software, iii. Communication, iv. Trade Union. **[1]**

[Board 2025 Comptt]

(a) a-i, b-ii, c-iii, d-iv
(b) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv
(c) a-iv, b-i, c-iii, d-ii
(d) a-iii, b-i, c-iv, d-ii

Q3. Which of the following languages is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution? **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) Bhojpuri (b) Odia (c) Garhwali (d) Rajasthani

Q4. In India's federal system, the Central and the State governments have the power to legislate on all those subjects which are included in the: **[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

(a) Concurrent List (b) State List (c) Union List (d) Residuary subjects

Q5. Which one of the following states of India enjoys special powers under Article 371A of the Constitution of India? **[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

(a) Nagaland (b) Rajasthan (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu

Q6. The 73rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution ensures women's representation at which of the following levels? **[1]**

[Board 2025 Comptt]

(a) Lok Sabha (b) Rajya Sabha (c) Zilla Panchayat (d) State Assembly

Q7. Mention the formation of Zilla Parishad. Which of the following is correct? **[1]**
(a) All Gram Panchayats of a state form the Zilla Parishad
(b) All the Panchayat Samitis in a district join to form the Zilla Parishad
(c) The Governor nominates members of the Zilla Parishad
(d) It is elected directly by all voters of the district

Q8. 'The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government.' This statement applies to: **[1]**

(a) a federal system
(b) a confederation
(c) a unitary system
(d) a community government

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** India is a 'coming together' federation like the USA.
Reason (R): In a 'coming together' federation, independent states unite to form a bigger unit. **[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):** In a unitary system, the central government can pass orders to the provincial government.
Reason (R): The provincial or state governments are subordinate to the central government in a unitary system. **[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):** Decentralisation has been made effective in India since 1992.
Reason (R): It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies. **[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. Highlight any two key features of federalism. **[2]**

[SQP 2025-26]

Q13. Mention any two subjects of the Union List and state why they are included in it. **[2]**

Q14. State any two provisions of the constitutional amendment of 1992 that strengthened local governments. **[2]**

Q15. State any two reasons why federalism is considered suitable for a country like India. **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Distinguish between the unitary and federal systems of government. **[3]**

[SQP 2021-22]

Q17. How does the 'system of three lists' function in Indian federalism? Explain with examples. **[3]**

[Board 2025]

Q18. How did linguistic states strengthen the Indian federation? Explain with examples. **[3]**

Q19. How does the local government structure promote democracy? Explain. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. 'A major step towards decentralisation in India was taken in 1992 by introducing a system of local self-government through a Constitutional Amendment.' Support the statement with examples. **[5]**

[Board 2024]

Q21. 'India is a federal country with a strong central tendency.' Examine the statement with arguments. **[5]**

Q22. Explain any five provisions of the constitutional amendments of 1992 which strengthened the third tier of democracy in India. **[5]**

[SQP 2026-27]

Case Study

Case Study: An Experiment in Brazil A city called Porto Alegre in Brazil has carried out an extraordinary experiment in combining decentralisation with participative democracy. The city has set up a parallel organisation operating alongside the municipal council, enabling local inhabitants to take real decisions for their city. The nearly 13 lakh people in this city get to participate in making the budget for their own city. The

city is divided into many sectors or what we call wards. Each sector has a meeting, like that of the gram sabha, in which anyone living in that area can participate. There are some meetings to discuss issues that affect the entire city. Any citizen of the city can participate in those meetings. The budget of the city is discussed in these meetings. The proposals are put to the municipality that takes a final decision about it.

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

[Board 2025]

(i) Explain the meaning of 'participatory democracy'. [1]

(ii) In the context of separation of powers, the given example defines which type of government? [1]

(iii) Describe the structure of the system in India which is almost similar to the above example of Brazil. [2]

Case Study: Three tiers of Indian democracy When power is taken away from central and state governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation. India is one of the very few countries of the world where the constitution recognises local self-government. The third tier of government, which consists of panchayats in rural areas and municipalities in urban areas, became a constitutional part of Indian federalism only in 1992. Before that, local bodies existed in all the states, but they were under the direct control of the state government, their elections were not held regularly, and they did not have resources of their own. The constitutional amendment made it mandatory to hold regular elections to these bodies, reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, and reserved at least one-third of all positions for women.

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

(i) What is decentralisation? [1]

(ii) Why is India special among world democracies in recognising local government? [1]

(iii) Explain any two provisions of the 1992 constitutional amendment that empowered local government. [2]

3. Gender, Religion and Caste

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Read the following statements and choose the correct term mentioned in the Indian Constitution. I. There is no official religion for the Indian State. II. There is freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion in India. **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) Republic (b) Sovereign (c) Secular (d) Socialist

Q2. Which of the following statements represent gender equality? **[1]**

[Board 2025]

(a) Giving more value to women's opinions than men's opinions.
(b) Restricting women to household chores.
(c) Providing more rights to men.
(d) Providing voting rights equally to men and women.

Q3. Consider the statements given below and choose the correct answer. Statement I: A communal mindset can lead to efforts to secure political influence for a specific religious group. Statement II: Members of the majority community may seek to create a separate political entity as a response to such dynamics. **[1]**

[SQP 2024-25]

(a) Both (I) and (II) are correct.
(b) Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
(c) Both (I) and (II) are incorrect.
(d) Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.

Q4. Which of the following statements about caste in politics is TRUE? **[1]**

(a) Parties choose candidates only on the basis of their education.
(b) Parties put up candidates from castes that dominate a constituency's electorate.
(c) No voter considers caste while voting.
(d) Universal adult franchise is based on caste.

Q5. What is meant by a 'casteist' appeal in politics? **[1]**

(a) Appealing on the basis of development and welfare policies
(b) Appealing to caste or communal feelings of voters to win elections
(c) Appealing on the basis of the Constitution
(d) Appealing to a candidate's education

Q6. Which of the following is a Constitutional provision that makes India secular? I. No official religion. II. Freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion. III. Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion. IV. State intervention in religion to ensure equality within religious communities. **[1]**

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

Q7. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? **[1]**

(a) Communalism — equal respect for all religions
(b) Casteism — choosing candidates on merit
(c) Feminism — superiority of women over men
(d) Secularism — no official state religion

Q8. Which of the following is an argument that exclusive attention to caste can produce negative results? **[1]**

(a) Caste politics diverts attention from poverty, causing conflict and violence.
(b) Caste politics can bring marginalised groups into the political mainstream.
(c) Caste politics always improves governance.
(d) Caste politics has no effect on society.

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** The child sex ratio in India has been declining.
Reason (R): A preference for sons leads to sex-selective abortion of the girl child. **[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):** Political mobilisation on religious lines is a form of communalism.
Reason (R): It uses sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear to bring followers of one religion together in the political arena. **[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 Indian Constitution provides freedom to all individuals and communities to profess, practise and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
Reason (R): India is a secular country with no official state religion. **[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 the provisions that constitute India into a secular country. **[2]**

[SQP 2022-23]

Q13. Suggest any two measures to remove gender inequality. **[2]**

[Board 2024]

Q14. 'Women in India face discrimination, disadvantages and oppression in many ways.' Highlight any two aspects of life where you witness this inequality. **[2]**

[SQP 2025-26]

Q15. Suggest two measures to involve women in educational development. **[2]**

[Board 2026 Second]

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Explain any three forms in which communalism is expressed in politics. **[3]**

[SQP 2018-19 (LA adapted)]

Q17. 'Politics too influences caste and caste system.' Explain any three points. **[3]**

Q18. Explain any three provisions of the Indian Constitution that protect religious minorities. **[3]**

Q19. The Constitution makers were worried about the challenge of communalism. Explain any three steps they took. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. 'Secularism is the very idea of the Indian Constitution.' Justify the statement. **[5]**

[Board 2025 Comptt]

Q21. 'Gender division is not based on biology but on social expectations.' Examine the statement. **[5]**

Q22. Explain five constitutional and legal measures taken in India to uplift women. **[5]**

Case Study

Case Study: Secularism in the Constitution The makers of our Constitution were aware that religion can be the cause of conflict in society. So they chose the model of a secular state. The Constitution declares that there is no official religion for the Indian State. It gives freedom to all individuals and communities to profess, practise and propagate any religion, or not to follow any religion at all. It prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion. At the same time, the Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities. For example, the Constitution abolishes untouchability, and the state has passed laws to reform religious practices that harmed some members of a community.

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

(i) Why did the Constitution makers choose a secular state? [1]

(ii) State any two constitutional provisions that establish secularism in India. [1]

(iii) How is Indian secularism different from a strict 'wall of separation' model? Explain with an example. [2]

Case Study: Women in local government The Constitution was amended in 1992 to make local government more powerful. One-third of the seats in local government bodies — panchayats and municipalities — are now reserved for women. This has brought more than ten lakh women into local government. Studies have found that women panchayat leaders have improved the supply of water, the working of schools and health centres, and have taken a more active interest in issues like domestic violence. In many places, women who entered panchayats with no political experience have become confident leaders. However, women's representation in state assemblies and Parliament remains low, and in some panchayats male relatives still exercise the real power behind women representatives.

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

(i) How many seats in local government bodies are reserved for women? [1]

(ii) What changes have women panchayat leaders brought according to studies? [1]

(iii) What problems remain in women's political representation? Give two points. [2]

4. Political Parties

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

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

[Board 2024]

(a) United States of America
(b) United Kingdom
(c) China
(d) India

Q2. Which of the following statements is correct keeping the requirement of formation of government in view? Statement i: It is possible for independent candidates to form a government. Statement ii: Government formation is exclusively reserved for political parties. Statement iii: The formation of government is limited to only elected political parties. Statement iv: Government can only be formed by parties, not by independent candidates. **[1]**

[SQP 2023-24]

(a) Statement i and ii are right.
(b) Statement i, ii and iii are right.
(c) Statement iii is right.
(d) Only statement iv is right.

Q3. Which one of the following orders has been passed by the Supreme Court to reform political parties in India? **[1]**

[Board 2024 Comptt]

(a) It is mandatory for all the candidates to give details of criminal cases on affidavit.
(b) It is mandatory for all parties to file income tax returns.
(c) It is mandatory for all parties to hold organisational elections.
(d) Issuing orders to regulate the internal working of parties.

Q4. A political party conducts regular elections, yet the same leaders continue to hold power for decades and key decisions are made by a small group. This situation best reflects: **[1]**

[SQP 2026-27]

(a) A federal party structure
(b) Lack of internal democracy
(c) Dynastic succession
(d) Strong ideological unity

Q5. Which one of the following is a challenge faced by political parties in India? **[1]**

(a) Lack of internal democracy
(b) Excessive transparency
(c) Too many public meetings
(d) Over-representation of ordinary workers

Q6. Read the statements about what happens when parties are absent from a democracy. I. Every candidate will be independent and no one can make promises about the direction of the government. II. Elected representatives will be accountable only to their constituency, not to the country. III. There will be no agency to gather and present different views to the government. IV. The government will have no mechanism to support it or make policies. **[1]**

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

Q7. Political parties provide people access to: **[1]**

(a) judicial appointments
(b) private business contracts
(c) government machinery and welfare schemes
(d) military commands

Q8. Which of the following statements about parties making laws is TRUE? **[1]**

(a) Laws are made by the Election Commission
(b) Laws are made only by the judiciary
(c) Parties have no role in legislation
(d) Laws are debated and passed by the legislature, where parties play a decisive role

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** Money and muscle power have become a challenge for Indian political parties.
Reason (R): Parties tend to use short-cuts to win elections, giving tickets to rich candidates. **[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 is a country with a multi-party system set up.
Reason (R): The multi-party system often appears very messy and leads to political instability. **[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):** Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
Reason (R): Legislative bodies are usually composed of party members who act and vote along party lines. **[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. Differentiate between ruling and opposition parties. **[2]**

[Board 2025 Comptt]

Q13. State any two functions of a political party. **[2]**

Q14. State any two suggested reforms to strengthen political parties. **[2]**

Q15. Why are political parties called 'omnipresent' in democracies? **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. 'Modern democracies cannot exist without political parties.' Evaluate the statement with the help of three relevant arguments. **[3]**

[SQP 2016-17]

Q17. Explain, how the rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies. **[3]**

[Board 2023 Comptt]

Q18. Explain the role of regional parties in Indian democracy. **[3]**

[Board 2024 Comptt]

Q19. Explain the constitutional and legal steps taken in India to reform political parties. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. What is a political party? Suggest reforms to strengthen today's political parties so that they perform their functions well. **[5]**

[SQP 2016-17]

Q21. Suggest and explain any five ways to reform political parties in India. **[5]**

[SQP 2020-21]

Q22. Analyse the major challenges faced by the political parties in India. **[5]**

[Board 2025]

Case Study

Case Study: Party systems in the world Modern democracies cannot exist without political parties, but democracies can take different party systems. In China, only one party, the Communist Party of China, is allowed to rule; this is a one-party system and is not considered a democratic arrangement. In the United States of America and the United Kingdom, power has usually changed between two main parties — a two-party system. In India, several parties compete, and any party or coalition can win; no single party wins a clear majority on its own, so parties form alliances. The multi-party system often appears messy and leads to political instability, but it allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation and gives voters a choice among several candidates.

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

(i) Which countries are examples of a one-party system and a two-party system? [1]

(ii) Why is a one-party system not considered democratic? [1]

(iii) Why has India preferred a multi-party system despite its drawbacks? Give two reasons. [2]

Case Study: Anti-defection law The Constitution of India was amended to combat the problem of defection. Defection happens when an elected MLA or MP leaves the party on whose symbol they were elected and joins another party. Defections caused instability: governments fell when members switched parties, and members were induced to switch by offers of money or office. The anti-defection law now disqualifies any member who leaves or is expelled from their party, or who votes against the party's directions on important occasions. The presiding officer of the House decides on questions of disqualification. Parties too have to follow certain rules made by the Election Commission of India, which registers all parties and grants them national or state party status.

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

(i) What is defection? [1]

(ii) What does the anti-defection law do? [1]

(iii) Why was the anti-defection law considered necessary? Give two reasons. [2]

5. Outcomes of Democracy

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which one of the following is a fundamental principle of democracy? **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) Rule of single individual
(b) Rule of people with freedom
(c) Rule with hereditary norms
(d) Rule of military chiefs

Q2. The frequent stories of _____ remind us that no system is entirely without shortcomings, even democracies. **[1]**

[SQP 2024-25]

(a) Poverty (b) Black Marketing (c) Terrorism (d) Corruption

Q3. Which one of the following options best explains why a democratic decision is more 'acceptable' to people? **[1]**

[SQP 2020-21 (extract)]

(a) It follows due procedures and deliberation
(b) It is taken swiftly
(c) It is taken by elites
(d) It gives privileges to some

Q4. Which of the following is the most important outcome of democracy? **[1]**

(a) Rules out the possibility of disagreements
(b) Legitimate government and room for correcting mistakes
(c) Rapid economic growth
(d) End of all social divisions

Q5. Democracies have been found to be _____ at reducing economic inequalities and poverty: **[1]**

(a) not very successful
(b) very successful
(c) completely successful
(d) partly successful

Q6. Which of the following two conditions must a democracy fulfil to accommodate social diversity successfully? I. It must not be simply rule by majority opinion II. The majority must work with the minority III. The majority has the right to rule as it wishes IV. Minorities must be excluded from power **[1]**

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

Q7. How does democracy improve the quality of decision-making? **[1]**

(a) By ignoring public opinion
(b) By taking decisions secretly
(c) By avoiding all debate
(d) Through deliberation and negotiation among many voices

Q8. If a government is attentive to the needs and demands of the people, it is called a _____ government. **[1]**

(a) stable (b) monarchical (c) responsive (d) federal

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** Democracy is an accountable, responsive and legitimate government.
Reason (R): Democracies have regular, free and fair elections and decision-making is based on norms and procedures. **[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):** Decisions taken after following procedures in a democracy are more acceptable.
Reason (R): People know that the decision was taken through the correct procedures. **[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):** Democracy has strengthened the dignity of women in public life.
Reason (R): Democracies have recognised the principle that women deserve equal respect and treatment 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. How does the quality of democracy depend on the degree of public participation? **[2]**

[Board 2022]

Q13. What is meant by the statement 'democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome'? **[2]**

Q14. State any two reasons why a democracy is valued even when its economic performance is average. **[2]**

Q15. How does democracy stand superior in promoting the dignity and freedom of individuals? Give two points. **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. 'Democracy accommodates social diversity.' Examine the statement. **[3]**

[Board 2023 Comptt]

Q17. 'Transparency is the most important feature of a democracy.' Support the statement. **[3]**

[Board 2023]

Q18. 'Transparency is an important outcome of democracy.' Support the statement with suitable examples. **[3]**

[Board 2026 Second]

Q19. 'That democratic system of government is considered good in which maximum number of citizens are made stakeholders in political power.' Explain the statement with arguments. **[3]**

[Board 2025]

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. Analyse the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities. **[5]**

[Board 2023]

Q21. How is democracy better than other types of government? Analyse. **[5]**

[Board 2025]

Q22. 'One distinct feature of democracy is that its scrutiny never ends.' Explain the statement with appropriate arguments. **[5]**

[Board 2025]

Case Study

Case Study: Democracy, inequality and the voice of the poor In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities. The income inequalities have increased within countries and among countries. Growing inequalities threaten the very foundation of democracy: the poor

constitute a large proportion of voters and no party will ever like to lose their votes. Yet democratically elected governments do not appear to be as keen to address the question of poverty as one would expect. The situation is much worse in some other countries where a small number of very rich people control the economy while the poor survive in hunger and insecurity. In such a situation, it is fair to say that democracy stands much superior to any other alternative in at least one respect: even when it fails to reduce poverty, every citizen has an equal vote and the freedom to demand change.

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

(i) Have democracies been successful in reducing economic inequalities? Answer in one word. [1]

(ii) What political power does even the poorest citizen have in a democracy? [1]

(iii) Why is the vote of the poor significant for governments? Give two points. [2]

Case Study: Support for the idea of democracy The march of democracy has become so much a part of global expectations that hardly anyone dares to challenge it publicly. By 2005, about 117 countries had democratically elected governments. In South Asia, people have repeatedly demanded democracy even where the army or monarchy ruled for long spells. Ordinary people everywhere want a say in how they are governed, and people in large numbers defend democracy because it is their own government. This ability of democracy to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored. It shows that whatever its shortcomings, democracy has earned the loyalty of ordinary citizens in a way no other form of government ever has.

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

(i) About how many countries had democratically elected governments by 2005? [1]

(ii) What is meant by democracy's 'ability to generate its own support'? [1]

(iii) Why has democracy earned the loyalty of ordinary citizens? Give two reasons. [2]

Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason)

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

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

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

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

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