CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

Social Science – Political Science

Subject Code: 087 | Class X

Question Bank – Set 4

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 majority community in Sri Lanka? **[1]**

[Board 2024 Comptt]

(a) Indian Tamils (b) Sinhala speakers (c) Sri Lankan Tamils (d) Christians

Q2. Which one of the following countries adopted majoritarianism in its Constitution? **[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

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

Q3. Apart from the Central and the State Government, Belgium has a third kind of government. Identify it. **[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

(a) Democratic Government
(b) Socialist Government
(c) Community Government
(d) Liberal Government

Q4. Read the following statements related to Sri Lanka and choose the correct option. I. Sri Lanka became an independent nation in 1948. II. Sinhala was declared the official language in 1956. III. Sri Lankan Tamils were given priority in universities and jobs. IV. The government made constitutional provisions to protect and promote Buddhism. **[1]**

[Board 2026 Second]

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

Q5. Which of the following statements accurately distinguishes majoritarianism from power sharing? **[1]**

[SQP 2023-24]

(a) Majoritarianism accommodates minorities; power sharing enforces majority rule.
(b) Majoritarianism means consensus building; power sharing excludes minorities.
(c) Majoritarianism means dominance of the majority; power sharing distributes power.
(d) Majoritarianism resolves conflicts peacefully; power sharing imposes the majority's will.

Q6. Consider the following statements on power sharing and choose the correct option. I. Imposing the will of majority community over others. II. It helps in reducing the possibility of conflict between the social groups. III. Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order. IV. It brings socio-political opposition among parties. **[1]**

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

Q7. Belgium took some measures to solve its problem. Read the following measures and choose the correct option. I. Formation of community government. II. Following majoritarian policy. III. By providing equal representation of language groups. IV. By providing additional powers to local governments. **[1]**

(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.

Q8. Which of the following was the result of majoritarianism in Sri Lanka? **[1]**

(a) A civil war between communities
(b) A stable and harmonious democracy
(c) Equal representation of all communities
(d) Decentralisation of power

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** Power sharing between different levels of government is called horizontal division of power.
Reason (R): Power sharing among different organs of government is called vertical division of power. **[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):** Sri Lanka adopted Sinhala as the only official language of the state.
Reason (R): The government of Sri Lanka wanted to foster its own culture, language and 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.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** In a horizontal distribution of power, organs of government check one another.
Reason (R): This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances. **[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 is power shared among different social groups? Explain. **[2]**

[Board 2024]

Q13. How is the distribution of power among different social groups beneficial for democracy? Explain. **[2]**

[Board 2025]

Q14. Why is power sharing desirable? Explain. **[2]**

Q15. Recognise the form of power sharing which is represented by the community government in Belgium. **[2]**

[SQP 2018-19 (adapted)]

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Why is power sharing essential for the success of democracy? Explain. **[3]**

[Board 2025]

Q17. Explain any three reasons why the Sri Lankan model of majoritarianism failed. **[3]**

Q18. Explain how power is shared among political parties, pressure groups and movements in a democracy. **[3]**

Q19. Explain any three consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted in Sri Lanka after its independence. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. Explain the majoritarian measures adopted in Sri Lanka and their consequences for its democracy. **[5]**

Q21. Analyse the reasons for the alienation of the Sri Lankan Tamils and its outcome. **[5]**

Q22. 'Belgium demonstrates that political accommodation of diversity strengthens national unity.' Support the statement with examples. **[5]**

Case Study

Case Study: Sri Lanka: majoritarianism Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority. As a result, the democratically elected government adopted a series of MAJORITARIAN measures to establish Sinhala supremacy. In 1956, an Act was passed recognising Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil. The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism. All these government measures, coming one after the other, gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.

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

[SQP 2025-26]

(i) State any two demands raised by the Sri Lankan Tamils. [1]

(ii) State the results of the majoritarian government in Sri Lanka. [1]

(iii) Explain any two provisions of the Belgian model of power sharing that avoided such a situation. [2]

Case Study: Power sharing among parties and movements Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power. In a democracy, the citizens must have freedom to choose among various contenders for power. In contemporary democracies, this takes the form of competition among different parties. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand. In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. Sometimes this kind of sharing can be direct, when two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus share power. In a democracy, we find interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers. They also will have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or by bringing their influence on the decision-making process.

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

[Board 2023 Comptt]

(i) How does competition among political parties ensure power sharing? [1]

(ii) When do parties share power directly? [1]

(iii) How do interest groups share governmental power? Explain with examples. [2]

2. Federalism

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Choose the correct option regarding the Concurrent List of legislative rights in India. **[1]**

[Board 2024 Comptt]

(a) Currency, Irrigation, Adoption and Computer Software
(b) Education, Forest, Marriage and Adoption
(c) Police, Business, Commerce and Agriculture
(d) Defense, Foreign Affairs, Banking and Communication

Q2. Which of the following options prove that India is a quasi-federal state? I. More powers with Centre II. Residuary subjects with Centre III. Equal subjects with Centre and States IV. Currency and Railways with Centre **[1]**

[Board 2023]

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

Q3. Identify the administrative system of Indian government with the help of the following information. I. Power shared between Central and State Governments to Local Governments. II. It is called a three-tier government. III. Local governments got constitutional status in 1992. **[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

(a) Federal system (b) Unitary Federal system
(c) Decentralised system (d) Unitary system

Q4. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B and choose the correct option. Column A: I. Information Technology, II. Police, III. Education, IV. Defence. Column B: 1. Concurrent List, 2. Union List, 3. State List, 4. Residuary Subjects. **[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

(a) I-3, II-4, III-1, IV-2 (b) I-4, II-3, III-1, IV-2
(c) I-4, II-1, III-3, IV-2 (d) I-4, II-2, III-1, IV-3

Q5. Anita is appearing in an examination conducted for recruitment to Central Government positions. In how many languages, as mentioned in the Eighth Schedule, can she opt to take the examination? **[1]**

[SQP 2021-22]

(a) 22 (b) 21 (c) 18 (d) 25

Q6. In which one of the following organs of India are women taking advantage of reservation? **[1]**

[Board 2025]

(a) Rajya Sabha (b) Legislative Council
(c) Municipality (d) Judiciary

Q7. Consider the following case and choose the correct option. Suppose the Government of India plans to issue new currency notes of different denominations in order to curb the influence of black money. The Government of one state is opposed to this policy of the Central Government. Can the state government stop the Union government from implementing this policy? **[1]**

[SQP 2025-26]

(a) Yes, because Currency is the subject of State List
(b) No, because any such change must be approved by the local government also
(c) Yes, because the approval of both the governments is necessary to implement this change
(d) No, because Currency is a subject of Union List

Q8. In a federal system, which of the following is TRUE? **[1]**

(a) The state government is answerable to the central government.
(b) The central government can order the state government to do something.
(c) The central government can change the constitution unilaterally.
(d) Both governments are separately answerable to the people.

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** The Union List includes subjects of national importance such as defence and foreign affairs.
Reason (R): Only the Union government can legislate on the subjects of the Union List. **[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):** The State Election Commission conducts panchayat and municipal elections.
Reason (R): It is an independent body created in each state by the constitutional amendment of 1992. **[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 does not use the word 'federation' anywhere.
Reason (R): India is a Union of States based on the principles of federalism. **[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 was the need for decentralisation recognised in the Indian Constitution? Explain. **[2]**

[Board 2025]

Q13. In which list is the subject 'Education' included and why? **[2]**

Q14. How many languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution? Name any two. **[2]**

Q15. Mention the formation of Zilla Parishad. **[2]**

[Board 2023]

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. State any three important features of federalism. **[3]**

[SQP 2021-22]

Q17. Describe any three steps taken by the government towards decentralisation in the year 1992. **[3]**

[SQP 2021-22]

Q18. Explain any three ways in which federalism has strengthened democracy in India. **[3]**

Q19. Why can the Indian federation be described as 'an instance of holding together federation'? Explain. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. Explain the key features of federalism. **[5]**

Q21. Explain the structure of local government in rural and urban India. **[5]**

Q22. 'Language was a source of division in Sri Lanka but a bond of unity in India.' Analyse how India managed linguistic diversity through federalism. **[5]**

Case Study

Case Study: Decentralisation in India The need for decentralisation was recognised in our Constitution. Since then, there have been several attempts to decentralise power to the level of villages and towns. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in urban areas were set up in all the States. But these were directly under the control of state governments. Elections to these local governments were not held regularly. Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own. Thus, there was very little decentralisation in effective terms. A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992. The Constitution was amended to make the third-tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

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

[Board 2025]

(i) At how many levels has decentralisation of power been done in the Indian Constitution? [1]

(ii) Explain the role of local self-government in solving problems. [1]

(iii) 'Local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government.' Explain the statement. [2]

Case Study: Language policy of India The language policy of India reflects the federal spirit of the Constitution. Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language. Hindi was identified as the official language, but Indian leaders adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading its use. Besides Hindi, there are 22 other languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. A candidate in an examination conducted for the Central Government positions may opt to take the examination in any of these languages. States too have their own official languages. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned state. The use of English was retained as an official language alongside Hindi to maintain unity and to avoid conflict.

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

(i) Which language is the official language of India? [1]

(ii) How many languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution? [1]

(iii) How does India's language policy reflect the federal spirit? Explain. [2]

3. Gender, Religion and Caste

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which one of the following institutions in India was a system of reservation for women made by amending the Constitution in 1992? **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) Panchayat
(b) Rajya Sabha
(c) Legislative Council
(d) Lok Sabha

Q2. Read the following provisions regarding secularism in the Indian Constitution and choose the correct option. I. The Indian State has not adopted any religion as its official religion. II. The Constitution gives freedom to all the citizens to practise and propagate any religion. III. The Constitution declares any kind of discrimination done on the basis of religion to be legal. IV. It gives the government the right to intervene in religious matters to ensure equality within religious communities. **[1]**

[Board 2024]

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

Q3. Which one of the following best describes 'communalism'? **[1]**
(a) Belief in the superiority of one's religion over all others, used in politics
(b) Equal respect for all religions
(c) State intervention in religious matters for reform
(d) Coexistence of many religions in one country

Q4. 'Caste can take various forms in politics.' Which one of the following is NOT such a form? **[1]**
(a) Parties appealing to caste sentiments to win votes
(b) Caste groups demanding a larger share in administration and services
(c) Universal adult franchise where every adult votes regardless of caste
(d) Caste-based mobilisation for political support

Q5. Read the following statements about gender and politics and choose the correct option. I. Gender division is a form of social division based on expected roles of men and women. II. Public-private division, with women confined to home, is being challenged by feminist movements. III. Women's work inside the home is not recognised as productive work. IV. Radical women's movements aimed at equality only in public life.**[1]**

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

Q6. 'Women work one hour more than men every day on average, yet much of their work is not paid.' This statement refers to: **[1]**
(a) the wage gap
(b) equal wages legislation
(c) the unequal valuing of women's unpaid household work
(d) women's low literacy

Q7. Which of the following shows that gender division is a form of social division? **[1]**
(a) Men and women both work in paid jobs equally everywhere.
(b) No country has passed equal wages laws.
(c) Women and men vote for the same parties everywhere.
(d) Roles are assigned by sex, with housework expected of women.

Q8. Which of the following is a provision of the Indian Constitution regarding religion that reflects its positivesecular model? **[1]**
(a) The state cannot intervene in religious affairs in any circumstance.
(b) Religious instruction is compulsory in all schools.
(c) The state promotes one religion over others.
(d) The state intervenes in religion for equality, as when untouchability was banned.

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** Caste has not disappeared from Indian politics.
Reason (R): Candidates and parties take the caste composition of constituencies into account while choosing 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):** Feminist movements in India and elsewhere have argued that women's work inside the home should be valued.
Reason (R): Household work is labour that sustains the family but is neither paid nor recognised as productive work. **[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):** Communalism is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.
Reason (R): Followers of one religion belong to one homogeneous unit with common secular interests. **[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. 'Women face discrimination in various ways in our society.' Explain any two ways. **[2]**

[Board 2025]

Q13. Suggest any two measures to increase the number of women in legislatures of India. **[2]**

[Board 2024]

Q14. Suggest any two measures to promote secularism as mentioned in the Indian Constitution. **[2]**

Q15. Suggest any two ways to promote women in various professional fields. **[2]**

[Board 2026 Second]

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. 'Respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society.' Examine the statement. **[3]**

[SQP 2019-20 (OR alternative)]

Q17. 'Casteism is a major obstacle in the functioning of Indian democracy.' Examine the statement with arguments. **[3]**

Q18. 'Secularism is the very idea of the Indian Constitution.' Justify the statement with three arguments. **[3]**

[Board 2025 Comptt (adapted from LA)]

Q19. Explain any three positive effects of caste in Indian politics. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. 'The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else. However, that is far from true.' Analyse the statement. **[5]**

[SQP 2026-27]

Q21. Explain five ways in which the problem of communalism can be checked in India. **[5]**

Q22. Explain the statement: 'Indian secularism is different from the secularism of Western countries'. **[5]**

Case Study

Case Study: Communal riots and national unity Communalism, the use of religion in politics, sometimes takes the most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre. India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of the partition. The post-independence period has also seen large-scale communal violence. Communal prejudices and propaganda are spread through everyday conversations, and rumours are circulated about the intentions of other communities. Political parties sometimes use religious symbols and religious leaders to appeal to voters of their own community. In moments of tension, a small incident can trigger a big conflagration, and ordinary citizens are caught in the violence.

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

(i) What is communal violence? [1]

(ii) How do political parties sometimes promote communalism? [1]

(iii) Suggest any two measures to prevent communal violence. [2]

Case Study: Communalism: many forms The word communalism is widely used across the world to denote the tensions between rival religious communities. In India, communalism means the use of religion in politics, where one religion is shown as superior to others and people of one religion are shown to have common political interests different from those of other religions. A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. For those belonging to the majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit. Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.

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

(i) What does communalism mean in the Indian context? [1]

(ii) How does the quest for dominance differ for majority and minority communalists? [1]

(iii) Explain political mobilisation on religious lines as a form of communalism. [2]

4. Political Parties

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

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

[Board 2023]

(a) USA (b) United Kingdom (c) China (d) India

Q2. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? **[1]**

[SQP 2022-23]

(a) Communist Party of India (Marxist) — United Progressive Alliance
(b) Indian National Congress — National Democratic Alliance
(c) Bharatiya Janata Party — National Democratic Alliance
(d) Biju Janata Dal — United Progressive Alliance

Q3. Which one of the following steps has been taken by the Election Commission of India to reform political parties? **[1]**

[Board 2024]

(a) Amended the Constitution to prevent defection.
(b) Candidates will have to give the details of criminal cases on affidavit.
(c) Parties must hold organisational elections and file income tax returns.
(d) Candidates will have to give details of their property on affidavit.

Q4. Which one of the following is NOT a function of a political party? **[1]**

(a) Administering justice through courts (b) Forming and running the government
(c) Playing the role of opposition (d) Contesting elections

Q5. The anti-defection law was enacted to: **[1]**

(a) ban the formation of new parties
(b) prevent elected representatives from changing parties
(c) reserve seats for parties
(d) fund political parties

Q6. 'Parties shape public opinion.' Which of the following supports this statement? **[1]**

(a) They nominate candidates only from their families
(b) They raise and highlight issues through press statements and movements
(c) They avoid taking positions on policies
(d) They dissolve after each election

Q7. Read the following statements about opposition parties and choose the correct option. I. They voice different views and criticise the government for its failures. II. They question the government's wrong policies. III. They work to keep the government accountable. IV. They hold power in the government. **[1]**

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

Q8. Read the following statements about why India adopted a multi-party system and choose the correct option. I. No single party can accommodate India's social and geographical diversity. II. Multiple parties give a variety of interests political representation. III. Voters can choose from several candidates and parties. IV. A multi-party system always produces single-party majority governments. **[1]**

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

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** A one-party system is the best arrangement for a democracy.
Reason (R): China, which has a one-party system, holds elections. **[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):** Opposition parties criticise the government for its failures or wrong policies.
Reason (R): Criticism keeps the government accountable and forces it to correct its course. **[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):** Defection means an elected representative leaves the party on whose ticket they were elected.
Reason (R): The anti-defection law was passed to prevent such switching of parties by MPs and MLAs. **[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 a one-party and a two-party system. **[2]**

[SQP 2021-22]

Q13. What is an alliance or front in a multi-party system? **[2]**

Q14. What is meant by defection? Which law addresses it? **[2]**

Q15. What does a candidate's affidavit disclose? **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Analyse the role of political parties in shaping public opinion. **[3]**

[Board 2023]

Q17. Explain any three features of a multi-party system. **[3]**

[Board 2023 Comptt]

Q18. Analyse the need for political parties in a democracy. **[3]**

[Board 2024 Comptt]

Q19. 'Political parties are a link between citizens and the government.' Explain with examples. **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. Political parties fill political offices and exercise political power. But they do this by performing a series of important functions. Describe any five of them. **[5]**

[SQP 2017-18]

Q21. Describe the necessity or utility of political parties in democratic countries. **[5]**

[SQP 2022-23]

Q22. Analyse how the issue of leadership succession poses a challenge to political parties in India. **[5]**

[SQP 2025-26]

Case Study

Case Study: Lack of internal democracy Parties in India face many challenges. The first among them is lack of internal democracy. Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings and do not conduct internal elections regularly. Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party. They do not have the means or the connections needed to influence the decisions. As a result, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party. Since one or few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage. They favour people close to them or even their family members. In many parties in India, we see a trend of dynastic succession, which is unfair to other members of the party and is also bad for democracy.

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

(i) State any two signs of lack of internal democracy within parties. [1]

(ii) What is dynastic succession in political parties? [1]

(iii) How do these problems harm democracy? Explain. [2]

Case Study: Affidavits and transparency The Supreme Court of India has passed several orders to make elections more transparent. Every candidate contesting an election has to file an affidavit giving details of his or her property and the criminal cases pending against them. Voters can examine these affidavits and decide whether a candidate is fit to represent them. The Election Commission has made it compulsory for parties to hold their organisational elections and to file their income tax returns. The idea behind these measures is that sunlight is the best disinfectant: when information about candidates and parties is public, voters can make informed choices and parties become accountable.

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

(i) What details must a candidate disclose in the affidavit? [1]

(ii) What two things has the Election Commission made compulsory for parties? [1]

(iii) How do these measures strengthen democracy? Give two points. [2]

5. Outcomes of Democracy

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Read the following statements regarding democracy and choose the correct option. I. Promotes equality among citizens II. Government by few individuals III. Protection of human rights IV. Ensures checks and balance system **[1]**

[Board 2024]

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

Q2. A cartoon shows leaders of many groups sitting at one table discussing their demands while a democratic government listens. Which strength of democracy does it highlight? **[1]**

[Board 2026 (cartoon rewritten text-only)]

(a) Quick decision-making
(b) Concentration of power with one leader
(c) Accommodation of various demands and avoidance of social conflict
(d) Uniformity of opinions

Q3. How is democracy better than other forms of government? Choose the most appropriate option. **[1]**
(a) It increases the individualism
(b) It promotes equality among elites
(c) It promotes tendency of private ownership only
(d) It enhances the dignity of individuals

Q4. The factor that is often missing from a non-democratic government is: **[1]**

(a) decision making (b) transparency (c) implementation (d) taxation

Q5. Which of the following statements about the relationship between democracy and economic growth is true? **[1]**
(a) There is no direct relationship between democracy and economic growth
(b) Dictatorships always record higher growth than democracies
(c) Democracies always record higher growth than dictatorships
(d) Democracies never achieve economic growth

Q6. Which of the following outcomes shows that democracy promotes the dignity of women? **[1]**
(a) Housework is counted as paid work
(b) Women do not participate in politics
(c) Women are excluded from voting
(d) Women's demands for equal respect and treatment are recognised publicly

Q7. 'One distinct feature of democracy is that its scrutiny never ends.' This means: **[1]**
(a) public examination of the government is continuous
(b) elections are held every year
(c) judges review all laws
(d) the press is controlled by the state

Q8. Read the statements about the reduction of inequality in democracies and choose the correct option. I. Democracies have ended all economic inequality. II. In actual life, democracies do not appear very successful in reducing inequality. III. The poor in democracies have at least a political voice to demand change. IV. Rising inequality means democracy has failed completely. **[1]**

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

Assertion–Reason

Q9. **Assertion (A):** Democracies are based on the principle of political equality.
Reason (R): It gives every adult citizen the right to vote, and one vote has equal value. **[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 democratic government is a legitimate government.
Reason (R): It is chosen freely by the people through regular, free and fair elections. **[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 based on political equality.
Reason (R): All individuals have equal say in electing representatives. **[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 two conditions that democracy must fulfil in order to achieve a harmonious social life. **[2]**

[Board 2022]

Q13. What is meant by a 'responsive government'? **[2]**

Q14. Why is a delay in decision-making not necessarily a weakness of democracy? **[2]**

Q15. Name any two 'values of democracy' enshrined in the Indian Constitution. **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. 'Democracies lead to a peaceful and harmonious life among citizens.' Justify the statement. **[3]**

[Board 2023 Comptt]

Q17. How is a democracy accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens? Analyse. **[3]**

[Board 2023]

Q18. 'Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.' Analyse the statement with three examples. **[3]**

[Board 2022]

Q19. Do democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens? Clarify. **[3]**

[SQP 2017-18 MS]

Long Answer (LA)

Q20. How do we assess democracy's outcomes? Explain any five bases for assessing the outcomes of democracy. **[5]**

[Board 2024]

Q21. How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government? Discuss by giving five reasons. **[5]**

[SQP 2016-17 MS]

Q22. 'Democracy leads to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens in every sphere.' Support the statement

with suitable arguments. **[5]**

[SQP 2025-26 MS]

Case Study

Case Study: Accommodation of social diversity Democracies usually develop procedures to conduct competition among social groups and reduce the possibility of tensions turning violent or explosive. In societies with social divisions, the ability to handle social differences and divisions is a definite plus point of democratic regimes. Belgium is an example: its leaders chose power-sharing and accommodated their communities peacefully. Sri Lanka shows the other path: a democracy that becomes simple rule by the majority community, ignoring the minority, descends into civil war. A democracy must fulfil two conditions to achieve accommodation: it must not be simply rule by majority opinion, and rule by majority must mean working with the minority so that everyone lives together peacefully.

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

(i) Which country peacefully accommodated its social divisions through power-sharing? [1]

(ii) What happens when a democracy becomes rule by majority opinion alone? [1]

(iii) State the two conditions a democracy must fulfil to accommodate social diversity. [2]

Case Study: Values of democracy Every society has to decide how it will be governed. The values a society chooses shape that decision. The Indian freedom struggle was fought on the values of liberty, equality and fraternity, and the Constitution enshrines them in the Preamble. Liberty — freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. Equality — of status and of opportunity, with the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. Fraternity — the spirit of common brotherhood among all Indians. These are not merely slogans: elections, rights, courts and institutions are designed to convert these values into everyday practice.

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

(i) Name the three values enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. [1]

(ii) What does ‘liberty’ include in the Preamble? [1]

(iii) How does Indian democracy convert these values into practice? Give two points. [2]

Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason)

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

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

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

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

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