

Read the following Questions and Answer throughly and try to understand.

Question 1:

State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.

ANSWER:

Functions performed by political parties in a democracy:

Group together a large number of similar opinions, thereby providing a direction in which policies can be formulated

Contest elections, providing the voters a choice between different policies

Winning party forms and runs the government

Losing parties form the opposition, and keep a check on the working of the government

Play a decisive role in making laws, especially by debating them in the legislature.

Shape public opinion by raising and highlighting issues

Provide people a way to access government machinery and welfare schemes

Page No 87:

Question 2:

What are the various challenges faced by political parties?

ANSWER:

Various challenges faced by political parties:

Lack of internal democracy

This is caused by the concentration of power in the hands of a few leaders. As a result, positions at the top are reserved for the leaders' relatives (dynastic succession) or people close to them.

Increased dependence on money and muscle power

This causes the party policies to be moulded by groups which supply these to the party.

Failure to provide a meaningful choice to the voters

This is because of the decline in fundamental, ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world.

Page No 87:

Question 3:

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

ANSWER:

Some reforms which could strengthen political parties are:

A law should be established to regulate the internal affairs of parties, thereby making them more transparent.

Women should be given at least one-third tickets.

The state should fund election campaigns, thereby eliminating lobbying groups and unfair competition.

Page No 87:

Question 4:

What is a political party?

ANSWER:

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

Page No 87:

Question 5:

What are the characteristics of a political party?

ANSWER:

Characteristics of a political party are:

The presence of a central ideology which defines what it stands for.

Policies arising from this ideology; the party promises to implement these if it is voted to power.

The presence of a leader, the party workers and supporters.

SUBJECT TEACHER MUKESH KUMAR..
