



Class -XII Humanities

Assignment

ERA OF ONE PARTY DOMINANCE

MCQ

Q1. **Assertion (A):** The coalition like character gave the Congress unusual strength.

Reason (R): Anything that the opposing wanted to say, would also find a place in the programme & ideology of the Congress.

- a) Both(A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- c) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- d) (A) is false but (R) is true.

Q2. **Assertion (A):** The coalition nature of the Congress tolerated & encouraged various factions.

Reason (R): This internal factionalism became a weakness of the Congress.

- a) Both(A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- c) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- d) (A) is false but (R) is true.

Q3. **Assertion (A):** The period b/w 1952-1967 has been described as the “Congress system”

Reason (R): In the first decade of electoral competition the Congress acted both as a ruling party as well as the opposition.

- a) Both(A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- c) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- d) (A) is false but (R) is true.

Q4. **Assertion**—The coalition character of the Congress gave it unusual strength.

Reason—A coalition accommodates all those who join it.

- a) Both(A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

- c) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- d) (A) is false but (R) is true.

Q5. The First General Elections in 1952 involved simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha & ----- .

- a. The President of India
- b. State Assemblies
- c. Rajya Sabha
- d. The Vice President

Q6. One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was _____ .

- a. Working class interest
- b. Protection of Princely states
- c. Economy free from state control
- d. Autonomy of States within the Union

Q7. The party that won the 2nd largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first elections was the _____ .

- a. Praja Socialist Party
- b. Bharatiya Jana Sangha
- c. Communist Party of India
- d. Bharatiya Janta Party

Q8. Which is the incorrect statement:

- a. Faced with serious challenges, leaders in many countries of the world decided that their country could not afford to have democracy.
- b. They said that national unity was their first priority.
- c. Many countries that gained freedom from colonialism experienced democratic regimes.
- d. Non-democratic regimes always started with a promise of restoring democracy very soon.

Q9. Which is the incorrect statement:

- a. When the first draft of the rolls was published, it was found that the names of nearly 40 lakh women were not recorded.
- b. Preparing for the first general elections was a mammoth exercise.
- c. During the first general elections in 1952, only 15% of 17 crore eligible voters were literate.
- d. Till then democracy had existed only in the prosperous countries, mainly North & South America.

Q10. Which is the correct statement:

- a. When India became independent, all countries in Europe had given voting rights to everyone above the age of 18.

- b. An Indian editor called the first general elections in India as the 'biggest gamble in history'.
- c. The first general elections in India had to be postponed thrice.
- d. The level of participation in the 1952 elections was very discouraging.

Q11. Which is the correct statement:

- a. The Congress party won 370 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha elections.
- b. The State elections were held separately from the Lok Sabha elections.
- c. The Congress won a majority of seats in all the states also.
- d. None of opposition parties could win even 1/10 of the number of seats won by the Congress.

Q12. Which is the incorrect statement:

- a. The extent of the victory of the Congress was artificially boosted by our electoral system.
- b. The Congress more than 50% of the votes.
- c. The Socialist Party, the 2nd largest party, secured more than 10% of the votes all over the country.
- d. The non-Congress votes were divided b/w different rival parties & candidates.

Q13. Which is the incorrect statement:

- a. The opposition parties had no role to play in the democratic character of the system.
- b. They offered a sustained & principled criticism of the policies of the Congress party.
- c. They kept the ruling party under check.
- d. They groomed the leaders who were to play a crucial role in the shaping of the country.

Q14. Which sentence is absolutely wrong about C. Rajagopalachari:

- a) A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi
- b) The Chief Minister of Gujarat
- c) Founder of the Swatantra Party
- d) First recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award

Q15. During the first three General Elections Congress won more seats than any other party. Which party stood at the number two position during this election?

- a) Communist Party of India
- b) Socialist Party of India
- c) Bharatiya Janta Party
- d) Swatantra Party

Q16. The victory of the Congress was artificially boosted by our electoral system. Which statement is not right in the above context?

In 1952 Congress obtained 45% of the total votes but it managed to win 74% of the

state.

b) This happened due to the first past the post method adopted by the country.

c) This happened due to Proportional Representation method adopted by the country.

Q17. Choose the wrong sentence in reference to the dominance of the Congress Party in India from one party system in other countries:

a) There is multi-party system in India where as in China there is single party rule.

b) In Mexico the PRI dominated the country for six decades.

e) PRI in Mexico have military domination.

c) PRI in Mexico has had military domination like India.

d) Egypt is one party state due to military rule

Q18. Choose the incorrect statement--The reason for the Congress popularity was:

a. It was a well organised party.

b. Many parties were formed only around Independence or after that.

c. The nature of the Congress was all inclusive.

d. All the leaders had good relations with the population.

Q19. _____, a magazine, wrote that Jawaharlal Nehru "would live to confess the failure of universal adult franchise in India."

a. Political Register

b. Organiser

c. The Edinburgh Review

d. The Director

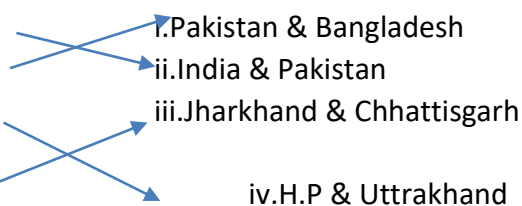
Q20. Match the principles with the instances:

a. Mapping of boundaries on religious grounds

b. Mapping on grounds of different languages

c. Demarcating boundaries within the country by geographical zones

d. Demarcating boundaries within country on administrative & political grounds



Q21. The first Chief Election Commissioner of India was

(a) S.L. Shakhdar

(b) Sukumar Sen

(c) K.V.K. Sundaram

(d) R.R. Trivedi

Q22. For the first time the communist party came to power through democratic

elections in which state of India ?

- (a) W. Bengal (b) Kerala
(c) Tripura (d) Manipur

Q23.**Assertion (A) :** The first general elections in India had to be postponed twice and were finally held from October 1951 to February 1952.

Reason (R) : It was no longer possible to argue that democratic elections could not be held in conditions of poverty or lack of education.

Options :

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

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

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

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

Q24.Which political party was at the second place in winning the Lok Sabha seats in the first general elections of India ?

- (a) Socialist Party (b) The Communist Party of India
(c) Bharatiya Jana Sangh (d) Swatantra Party

Q25.In which year was the Election Commission of India set up?

- (a) 1949 (b) 1950
(c) 1951 (d) 1952

Q26.Which political party came to power in Jammu and Kashmir in 1952 ?

- (a) Indian National Congress (b) Kashmir National Congress
(c) Communist Party of India (d) National Conference

Very Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks]

1. How did the dominance of Congress Party in the first three general elections help in establishing a democratic set-up in India?

Answer: The first general election was the first big test of democracy in a poor and illiterate country. Till then democracy had existed only in the prosperous countries. By that time many countries in Europe had not given voting rights to all women. In this context India's experiment with universal adult franchise appeared very bold and risky. India's general election of 1952 became a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world. It was no longer possible to argue that democratic elections

could not be held on conditions of poverty or lack of education. It proved that democracy could be practised anywhere in the world. The next two general elections strengthened democratic set-up in India.

2. Highlight any two features of ideology of Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Answer: 1. Bharatiya Jana Sangh laid emphasis on ideology of one country, one culture and one nation.
2. Bharatiya Jana Sangh called for reunity of India and Pakistan in Akhand Bharat.

3. Explain the major difference of ideology between that of Congress and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Answer: The major difference of ideology between Congress and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh was that Bharatiya Jana Sangh emphasised on one party country. One culture, one nation i.e. a Hindu nation or Hindutva whereas Congress formed ideological and social coalitions accommodating social diversities.

4. State any two ideologies of the Swatantra Party.

Answer: Swatantra Party was founded by Senior Congress leader C. Rajgopalachari in August 1959:

1. The party believed that prosperity could come only through individual freedom.
2. This party was against land ceilings in agriculture and opposed to cooperative farming.

5. How has the method of voting changed from the first General Election of 1952 to the General Election of 2004?

Answer: 1. In the first General Election a box was placed inside each polling booth for each candidate with the election symbol of the candidate. Each voter was given a blank ballot paper to drop into the box, they wanted to vote for.
2. After first two elections, this method was changed. Now ballot paper carried the names and symbols of candidates and the voter stamped against the name of candidate to vote for.
3. In 2004, Electronic Voting Machine were introduced to press the button according to choice of the voter containing the name of candidate and symbol of political party.

6. When was Communist Party emerged?

Answer: The Communist Party emerged in 1920 in different parts of India. It took the inspiration from Bolshevik revolution in Russia. The important leaders of CPI were A.K. Gopalan, S.A. Dange, E.M.S. Namboodiripad, P.C. Joshi, Ajay Ghosh etc.

7. "India's experiment with universal adult franchise appeared very bold and risky". Justify the statement.

Answer: Because:

1. Country's vast size and electorates made these elections unusual.
2. The year 1952, it was a big test for poor and illiterate country.
3. Till then, democracy had been existed only in the prosperous countries mainly in Europe and North America where everyone was almost literate.

8. Mention the aims and goals of Socialist Party of India. Why the party could not prove itself as an effective alternative to the Congress?

Answer: Aims and goals of socialist party of India:

1. The Socialist Party believed in the ideology of democratic socialism to be distinguished from Congress and Communists both.

2. It criticised Congress for ignoring the workers and peasants.

It became difficult for socialist party to prove itself as an effective alternative to Congress because Congress Party declared its goal to be the socialist pattern of society in 1955.

9. What were the reasons for dominance of one party system in India?

Answer: The dominance of Congress in India was due to following reasons:

1. Congress was identified with the freedom struggle for building national unity and solidarity.

2. Congress was associated with Mahatma Gandhi's name.

3. It had a broad based manifesto to include the various section of society.

4. Congress bore a popular appeal of charismatic leader like Mahatma Gandhi, J.L. Nehru, Sardar Patel, Indira Gandhi etc.

5. Congress focused on building role of the party.

10. How did India's first general elections of 1952 become a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world?

Answer: Because:

1. These elections were competitive among various parties.

2. The participation of people was encouraging also.

3. The results were declared in a very fair manner, even to be accepted by the losers in a fair manner.

4. This experiment of India, proved the critics wrong also.

Short Answer Type Questions [4 Marks]

1. Describe the organisation of Congress Party as a social and ideological coalitions.

Or

"For a long time Congress Party had been a social and ideological coalition". Justify the statement.

Answer: 1. It accommodated the revolutionary conservative, extremist and moderates with all other shades of the centre.

2. Congress became a platform for numerous groups, interests and even political parties to take part in national movement.

3. In pre-independence days, many organisations and parties were allowed to co-exist within the Congress.

4. Some of these like 'Congress Socialist Party' later separated from the Congress and became an opposition party.

2. How was one party dominance of India different from the other examples of one party dominance in the world?

Or

Examine the comparative analysis of nature of Congress dominance.

Answer: India is not the only country to have dominance of one party but we have some other

examples also for the same. But the dominance of one party in India does not compromise democratic spirit of constitution whereas other nations have compromised it:

1. In countries like China, Cuba and Syria are permitted to be ruled by one party only by the constitutional provisions.
2. Myanmar, Belarus, Egypt also experience one party system due to legal and military measures.
3. In India, Congress dominates on behalf of free and fair elections based on democracy where the losing of other party is also fair.

3. "In India, hero-worship, plays a part in its politics unequalled in magnitude by the part it plays in the politics of any other country But in politics, hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and eventual dictatorship". Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Analyse the statement.

Ans: The above mentioned statement speaks of accommodating diversities by the leader of India which was a challenging path to democracy. Our leaders wanted to represent politics as a way of solution of problems in place of making politics a problem.

4. Examine the dominance of Congress in the first three General Elections.

Answer: 1. In the first election Congress won 364/489 seats as per expectations.

2. The Communist Party next to Congress won only 16 seats.

3. Congress scored higher in state elections also except Travancore- Cochin (Kerala), Madras and Orissa.

4. Hence, country ruled at national and state level both by declaring Pt. J.L. Nehru as the first Prime Minister of India.

5. In second and third elections also, Congress maintained the same position in Lok Sabha by winning of three fourth seats in the years 1957 and 1962 respectively.

Q5. Many countries that gained freedom from colonialism experienced non-democratic rule. Why? In what respect was India different?

Ans. 1. Faced with the serious challenges of nation building, many countries of the world decided that their country could not afford to have democracy.

2. They said national unity was their first priority and that democracy will bring in differences & conflicts.

3. So, many countries after freedom had a non-democratic rule.

4. India, in this respect, was different because the leaders decided to take the more difficult path of democracy as our freedom struggle was deeply committed to this idea.

5. They knew that there were different groups with conflicting aspirations but they also knew that democratic politics will solve everything.

Q6. In what context was India's experiment with UAF very bold and risky? OR An Indian editor called the UAF as the biggest "gamble in history". Explain. OR "The 1st general election was also the 1st biggest test of democracy in a poor and illiterate country" Explain

Ans. 1. The first general election was also the first biggest test of democracy in a poor & illiterate country like India.

2. Till then democracy had existed only in rich countries, mainly Europe and America, where nearly everyone was literate.

3. Many countries in Europe had not even given voting rights to all women.

4. In this context, India's experiment with universal adult franchise appeared very bold and risky and an Indian editor called it as the biggest gamble in history.

5. Organiser, a magazine, wrote that Nehru "would live to confess the failure of universal adult franchise in India". India was an illiterate country.

Q6. Why was it not an easy task to hold a free and fair election in a country of India's size? OR "Preparing for the 1st general election was a mammoth exercise". Explain. OR The first general elections were postponed twice. Give 2 reasons.

Ans. 1. Holding an election required delimitation or drawing the boundaries of the electoral constituencies.

2. It also required preparing the electoral rolls, or the list of all the citizens eligible to vote and both these tasks took a lot of time.

3. When the 1st draft of the rolls was published, it was discovered that the names of nearly 40 lakh women were not recorded in the list.

4. They were simply listed as "wife of..." or "daughter of..." so the Election Commission refused to accept these entries and ordered a revision if possible and deletion if necessary.

5. At that time there were 17 crore eligible voters & only 15% of these eligible voters were literate.

Q7. In what way was India's general election of 1952 a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world?

Ans. 1. It took 6 months for the campaigning, polling and counting to be completed.

2. Elections were competitive- there were on an average more than 4 candidates for each seat.

3.The level of participation was encouraging-more than half the eligible voters turned out to vote on the day of elections.

4.When the results were declared, these were accepted as fair- even by the losers.

5.The Hindustan Times claimed that 'there is universal agreement that the Indian people have conducted themselves admirably in the largest experiment in democratic elections in the history of the world'.

6.It was no longer possible to argue that the democratic elections could not be held in conditions of poverty or lack of education.

Q8.Examine the Congress dominance in the first 3 general elections.

Ans.1.The party won 364 of the 489 seats in the 1st Lok Sabha and finished way ahead of any other challenger.

2.The state elections were held with the Lok Sabha elections and the Congress scored big victory in those elections also.

3.It won a majority of seats in all the states except Travancore-Cochin (part of today's Kerala), Madras and Orissa.

4.Finally, even in these states the Congress formed the government, so the party ruled all over the country at the national and state level.

5.In the 2nd and 3rd general elections, held in 1957 and 1967 respectively, the Congress maintained the same position in the Lok Sabha by winning $\frac{3}{4}$ of the seats.

6.None of the opposition parties could win even 1/10 of the number of seats won by the Congress.

7.Apart from some exceptions, the Congress controlled the national and all the state governments.

Q9.'The extent of the victory of the Congress was artificially boosted by our electoral system'.

Explain.

Ans. 1.The Congress won 3 out of every 4 seats but it did not get even half of the votes. In 1952, for eg, the Congress got 45% of the total votes, but it managed to win 74% of the seats.

2.In this system of election, FPTP, the party that gets more votes than others tends to get much more than its proportional share & that is exactly what worked in favour of the Congress.

3.If we add up the votes of all the non-Congress candidates, it was more than the votes of the Congress.

4.But the non-Congress votes were divided b/w rival parties & candidates. So, the Congress won easily.

Q10.What factors contributed to the dominance of the Congress party?

Ans.The factors are:

- 1.It was seen as the inheritor of the national movement.
 - 2.Many leaders who had led the movement were now contesting elections as Congress candidates.
 - 3.It was already a very well organized party, and by the time other parties could even think of a strategy, the Congress had already begun its campaign.
 - 4.Many parties had formed only around Independence or after it and the Congress had the 'first of the blocks' advantage.
 - 5.By the time of Independence, the Congress had not only spread across the length and breadth of the country, but also had an organized network down to the local level.
 - 6.Most importantly, as the Congress was till recently a national movement, its nature was all inclusive.
 - 7.The victory of the Congress was also boosted by our electoral system-First Past the Post system.
 - 8.The Congress had a social and ideological coalition.
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Q11.Examine the social base of the Congress. (social coalition)

Ans. 1.It began as a party dominated by the English speaking, upper caste, upper middle-class and urban elite, but with every civil disobedience movement it launched, its social base widened.

- 2.It brought together diverse groups whose interests were often contradictory.
 - 3.Peasants and industrialists, urban dwellers and villagers, workers and owners, lower and upper classes and castes, all found space in the Congress.
 - 4.Gradually, its leadership also expanded beyond the upper caste and class professional to agriculture-based leaders with a rural background.
 - 5.By the time of Independence, the Congress was transformed into a rain-bow like social coalition broadly representing India's diversity in terms of classes and castes, religions and languages and various interests.
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Q12.In what sense was the Congress an ideological coalition? Mention the various ideological currents present within it.

Ans. 1.All the groups merged their identity within the Congress.

- 2.Very often they did not and continued to exist within the Congress as groups and individuals holding different beliefs.
- 3.It accommodated the revolutionary and pacifist, conservative and radical, extremist and moderate, right and left and all shades of the centre.

4.The Congress was a platform for numerous groups, interests and even political parties to take part in the national movement.

5.In pre-independence days, many organizations and parties with their own constitution and organizational structure were allowed to exist within the Congress.

6.Despite the differences regarding the methods, specific programmes and policies the party managed to contain if not resolve differences and build consensus.

Q13.Did the prevalence of a one party dominant system adversely affect the democratic nature of Indian politics? OR How did the coalition like character affect the nature of the Congress?

Ans.The coalition like character gave the Congress unusual strength:

1.Firstly, a coalition accommodates all those who join it and so avoids any extreme position and strikes a balance on almost all issues.

2.This strategy put the opposition in difficulty as anything that the opposition wanted to say, would also find a place in the programmes and ideology of the Congress.

3.In a party that has the nature of a coalition, there is greater tolerance of internal differences and ambitions of various groups and leaders are accommodated.

4.The coalition nature of the Congress party tolerated and in fact encouraged various factions.

5.Instead of being a weakness, internal factionalism became a strength of the Congress.

6.Since there was room within the party for various factions to fight with each other, it meant that leaders representing different interests and ideologies remained within the Congress rather than go out and form a new party.

Q14.Write a note on the emergence of opposition parties.

Ans- 1.The roots of almost all the non-Congress parties of today can be traced back to one or other of the opposition parties of the 1950s.

2.All these opposition parties succeeded in gaining only a token representation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies during this period but their presence played a crucial role in maintaining the democratic character of the system.

3.These parties offered a sustained and often principled criticism of the policies and practices of the Congress party.

4.This kept the ruling party under check and often changed the balance of power within the Congress.

5.These parties also groomed the leaders who were to play a crucial role in the shaping of our country.

Long Answer Type Questions [6 Marks]

Q1. Describe the various steps taken to hold the first general elections in India. How far these elections were successful?

Answer: The first general elections had to be postponed twice and finally held from October 1951 to February 1952:

1. These elections were referred to as 1952 elections because most parts of country voted in January 1952.
2. It took six months for campaigning, polling and counting to be completed.
3. Elections were competitive because there were on an average more than four candidates for each seat.
4. The level of participation was encouraging to vote out in the election.
5. The results were declared and accepted as fair even by losers to prove critics wrong.

These elections were successful:

1. The losing of the parties was also accepted as fair.
2. These elections became a landmark in the history of democracy.
3. It was no longer possible to argue that democratic elections could not be held in conditions of poverty or lack of education. Instead, it can be practised anywhere in the world.

2. Why was Congress considered as a social and ideological coalition in independence days? Explain.

Answer: The Congress Party became a social and ideological coalition for it merged different social groups alongwith their identity holding different beliefs:

1. It accommodated the revolutionary, conservative, pacifist, radical, extremist and moderates and the right and the left with all other shades of the centre.
2. Congress became a platform for numerous groups, interacts and even political parties to take part in the national movement.

Ideological currents present within the Congress:

(a) In pre-independence days, many organisations and parties with their own constitutions and organisational structures were allowed to exist within the Congress.

(b) Some of these like 'Congress Socialist Party', later separated from the Congress and became an opposition party.

3. How was the one party dominance in India different from the one party system in Mexico? In your opinion which of the two political systems is better and why?

Answer: There was a difference between one party domination in India and Mexico. In Mexico, this was a one party system only not dominance because:

1. In India, the Congress Party dominated on behalf of popular consensus but Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) (in Spanish) ruled on behalf of perfect dictatorship.
2. In India, free and fair elections took place, where the losing of election was also fair but in Mexico, elections were based on malpractices, dominated by PRI.

In our opinion one party dominance-like India is better because this sort of dominance:

1. Accommodates social diversities.
2. Encourage large number of parti-cipation.

3. Ensures democratic spirit as well as maintains the same.
4. Bear respect even for opposition.

4. How did opposition parties emerge in India? What was their importance?

Answer: Some of the diverse opposition parties had come into existence before the first general elections in 1952 as non-Congress parties which succeeded to gain only a token of representation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. These parties maintained a democratic character of the system:

1. These offered a criticism based on principles to keep ruling party under check.
2. These parties groomed the leaders also to play a crucial role in shaping the country.
3. In the early years, there was a lot of respect between leaders of Congress and opposition parties i.e. interim government included even opposition leaders like Dr. Ambedkar, Jayaprakash Narayan, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee into the cabinet.