

ERA OF ONE PARTY DOMINANCE | WORKSHEET

Class 12 - Political Science

1. The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first General elections was the [1]
 - a) Bhartiya janta party
 - b) Bhartiya Jana Sangh
 - c) Communist Party of India
 - d) Praja Socialist Party
2. How many seats did Indian Congress win in general election 1952? [1]
 - a) 365
 - b) 384
 - c) 364
 - d) 360
3. Who was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh? [1]
 - a) Mahatma Gandhi
 - b) Indira Gandhi
 - c) Sukumar Sen
 - d) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
4. The socialists advocated the ideology of: [1]
 - a) Hindutva
 - b) Socialism
 - c) Democratic Socialism
 - d) Communalism
5. What was called “the biggest gamble in history”? [1]
 - a) The era of Congress dominance
 - b) Universal adult franchise
 - c) The first general elections of 1952
 - d) Emergency of 1975
6. One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was: [1]
 - a) Protection of princely states
 - b) Autonomy of states within the union
 - c) Interests of the working class
 - d) Economy free from state control
7. Name the founder President of Congress Socialist Party. [1]
 - a) Sukumar Sen
 - b) Shayama Prasad Mukherjee
 - c) Acharya Narendra Dev
 - d) K.M. Munshi
8. Who was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India? [1]
 - a) Sukumar Sen
 - b) Shayama Prasad Mukherjee
 - c) Balraj Madhok
 - d) C. Rajagopalachari
9. The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first General elections was the [1]
 - a) Communist Party of India
 - b) Praja Socialist Party
 - c) Bhartiya Janta Party
 - d) Bhartiya Jana Sangh

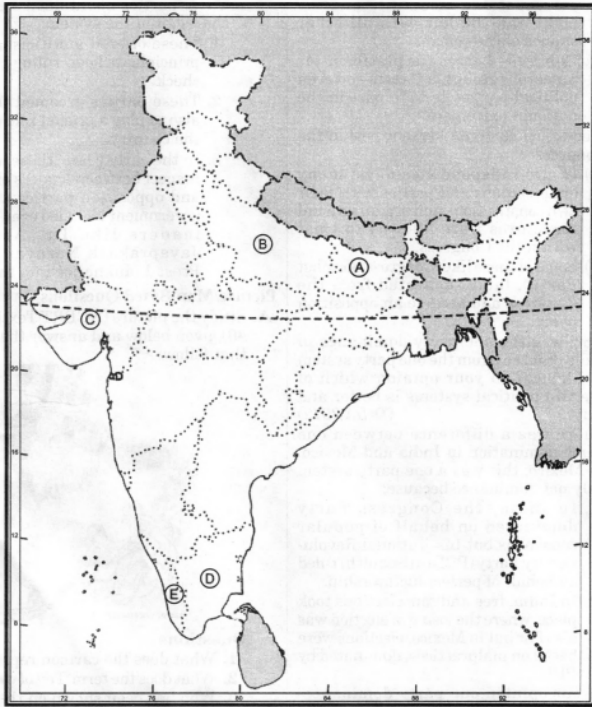
10. An Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is used to record: [1]
 - a) senior citizens preferences
 - b) politicians preferences
 - c) pressure groups preferences
 - d) voters preferences
11. Which party emerged the second-largest party in the 1952 general elections and with how many seats? [1]
12. What was proved by the successful general elections in India in 1952? [1]
13. When was the Socialist Party formed within the Congress and what forced them to form a separate Socialist Party and when? [1]
14. What is meant by 'one-party dominance' in the Indian context? [1]
15. Who was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh? [1]
16. Mention the aims and goals of Socialist Party of India. Why the party could not prove itself as an effective alternative to the Congress? [2]
17. Who formed the government in Kerala in 1957? What was the importance of that government? [2]
18. How did the Congress Party succeed in maintaining its dominance till 1967? [2]
19. What is the full form of EVM? When was it introduced in India? Mention one advantage each of EVM and Voter Identity Card? [2]
20. Highlight the features of ideology of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. [2]
21. When were the first general elections expected in India? Why was it delayed? [2]
22. Explain the major difference of ideology between that of Congress and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. [2]
23. In spite of token representation in the Indian legislatures during the fifties, what role did the opposition parties play? [2]
24. Examine any three reasons for the dominance of Congress Party in the first three general elections in India. [2]
25. What were the reasons for dominance of one party system in India? [2]
26. Who founded the Swatantra Party in 1959? Describe its main policies and programmes of this party. [4]
27. Describe Congress's policy of tolerance and management of factions. What were its effects? [4]
28. Right three differences each between Socialist parties and the Communist Party. [4]
29. Evaluate the importance of opposition in a parliamentary democracy. Which kind of role was played by the opposition in India during the first three Parliaments from 1952 to 1967? [6]
30. Describe the first three Lok Sabha elections of 1952, 57 and 62. [6]
31. Minority community candidates are nominated by national democratic parties in constituencies. Explain. [6]
32. **See the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow:** [5]



- i. What does the cartoonist want to show?
- ii. Describe the role of opposition parties.

iii. what does the term 'tug of war' refers to?

33. In the outline political map of India given below, five States have been marked as A, B, C, D and E. With the help of the information given below, identify them and write their correct names in your answer book along with the serial number of the information used and the related alphabet in the map. [5]



Questions

- i. The State to which C. Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor-General of India, belonged.
- ii. The State where the first non-Congress Government was formed by E.M.S. Namboodiripad.
- iii. The State to which Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture (1952-54) belonged.
- iv. The State which faced the most acute food crisis in 1965-1967.
- v. The State which led the country to White Revolution through Dairy Cooperative Movement.

Solution

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1. (c) Communist Party of India
Explanation: When the final results were declared, the extent of the victory of the Congress did surprise many. The party won 364 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha and finished way ahead of any other challenger. **The Communist Party of India that came next in terms of seats won only 16 seats.**
2. (c) 364
Explanation: Indian national Congress won 364 seats out of 485 in general election 1952.
3. (d) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
Explanation: The **Bharatiya Jana Sangh** was formed in 1951 with **Shyama Prasad Mukherjee** as its founder-President. Its lineage however can be traced back to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Hindu Mahasabha before Independence.
4. (c) Democratic Socialism
Explanation: The socialists believed in the ideology of **democratic socialism** which distinguished them both from the Congress as well as from the Communists. They criticized Congress for favouring capitalists and landlords and for ignoring the workers and the peasants.
5. (b) Universal adult franchise
Explanation: The first general election was also the first big test of democracy in a poor and illiterate country. India's experiment with **universal adult franchise** appeared very bold and risky. An Indian editor called it "the biggest gamble in history".
6. (d) Economy free from state control
Explanation: The Swatantra Party wanted the **government to be less and less involved in controlling the economy**. It believed that prosperity could come only through individual freedom. It was critical of the development strategy of state intervention in the economy, centralised planning, nationalization, and the public sector.
7. (c) Acharya Narendra Dev
Explanation: **Acharya Narendra Dev** was a freedom fighter and founding President of the Congress Socialist Party. The Socialist Party went through many splits and reunions leading to the formation of many socialist parties. These included the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, the Praja Socialist Party, and Samyukta Socialist Party. Jayaprakash Narayan, Achyut Patwardhan, Asoka Mehta, Acharya Narendra Dev, Rammanohar Lohia, and S.M. Joshi were among the leaders of the socialist parties.
8. (a) Sukumar Sen
Explanation: The Election Commission of India was set up in January 1950. **Sukumar Sen** became the first Chief Election Commissioner. The country's first general elections were expected sometime in 1950 itself.
9. (a) Communist Party of India
Explanation: Communist Party of India
10. (d) voters preferences
Explanation: These days we use an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) to record voters' **preferences**. Towards the end of the 1990s, the Election Commission started using the EVM. By 2004 the entire country had shifted to the EVM.
11. The Communist Party of India with 16 seats, was the second-largest party in the 1952 general elections.
12. The successful general elections in India in 1952 proved that democracy could be practiced anywhere in the world in the conditions of poverty or lack of education.
13. The Socialist Party was formed in 1934 within the Congress. In 1948 the amendment in Congress Constitution to prevent dual party membership forced the socialists to form a separate Socialist Party.
14. The dominance of Congress party in first three general elections held in 1952, 1957 and 1962 in both Lok Sabha as well as in State Assemblies is termed as One-party dominance in Indian context. Congress won 364 seats out of 489 in 1952, 371 out of 494 in 1957, and won 361 out of 494 seats in 1962 Lok Sabha elections.
15. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951.
16. Aims and goals of the socialist party of India were:

- The Socialist Party believed in the ideology of democratic socialism to be distinguished from Congress and Communists both.
 - 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. But the socialists faced a dilemma when in 1955 the Congress declared its goal to be the socialist pattern of society. Thus it became difficult for the socialists to present themselves as an effective alternative to the Congress.
17. a. The Council of Ministers (1957–59) of Legislative Assembly, Kerala state (better known as E. M. S. Namboodiripad ministry - first term) was the first Council of Ministers, the executive wing of state government, in the Indian state of Kerala. The ministry was led (Chief Minister) by Communist Party of India leader E.M.S. Namboodiripad from 5th April 1957 to 31st July 1959 and had eleven ministries.
- b. Its importance was that for the first time in the world, a Communist party government had come to power through democratic elections.
18. The Congress Party succeed in maintaining its dominance till 1967 due to following reasons:
- i. The Congress was already well-organised party and by the time other parties could think of a strategy, the Congress had already started its campaign.
 - ii. Congress had the 'first off the blocks' advantage.
 - iii. Congress had an organisational network down to the local levels.
 - iv. Most importantly, as the Congress was till recently a national movement, its nature was all-inclusive.
19. i. The full form of EVM: Electronic Voter Machine to record voters' preferences.
- ii. Towards the end of the 1990s, the Election Commission started using the EVM. By 2004 the entire country had shifted to the EVM.
- iii. Advantage of EVM are as follows:
- a. Record voters preferences.
 - b. EVM machines can be moved easily from one place to another as compared to the ballot boxes, that is why people living in the hilly and other inaccessible can cast their votes in the elections. So, EVMs provided the right to vote to many peoples of the country.
20. The features of ideology of Bharatiya Jana Sangh are as follows:
1. Bharatiya Jana Sangh laid emphasis on the ideology of one country, one culture, and one nation.
 2. Bharatiya Jana Sangh called for reunification of India and Pakistan in Akhand Bharat.
 3. It was opposed to the granting of the concession to religious and cultural minorities.
21. a. The country's first general elections were expected sometime in 1950 itself but the elections had to be postponed twice and finally held from October 1951 to February 1952.
- b. The first general elections were delayed due to the following reasons:
- i. Large country.
 - ii. Delimitation of electoral constituencies.
 - iii. Illiterate voters.
 - iv. Need for a special method of voting.

22. The major difference of ideology between that of Congress and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh is given below:

Congress	Bharatiya Jana Sangh
Congress formed ideological and social coalitions accommodating social diversities.	Bharatiya Jana Sangh emphasised on one party country. One culture, one nation i.e, a Hindu nation or Hindutva

23. The opposition parties play the following roles:
- i. Played a crucial role in maintaining the democratic character of the system.
 - ii. Opposition parties offered a sustained and often principled criticism of the policies and practices of the Congress Party.
 - iii. This kept the ruling party under check and often changed the balance of power within the Congress.
24. The Congress Party succeed in maintaining its dominance till 1967 due to following reasons:
- i. The Congress Party had inherited the legacy of the National Movement. Moreover, it was the only political party to have an organisation spread all over the country.
 - ii. The Congress Party had the most popular and charismatic leader in Nehruji. The party got 364 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha elections and finished way ahead of any other challenger.

iii. It was already a well-organised party and till other parties could reach up to their level, Congress had already begun with its campaigning. This gave the party 'first off the blocks' advantage.

25. The factors responsible for the dominance of the Congress Party in India are-

1. Congress was identified with the freedom struggle for building national unity and solidarity.
2. Congress was associated with Mahatma Gandhi's name. It had inherited the legacy of the national movement.
3. It had a broad-based manifesto to include the various section of society.
4. Congress was the only party to have an organisation spread all over the country.
5. Congress bore a popular appeal of charismatic leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, J.L. Nehru, Sardar Patel, Indira Gandhi etc.
6. Congress focused on building role of the party. Congress was all inclusive- a social and ideological coalition and had transformed into a rainbow-like social coalition, which accommodated the revolutionary as well as the pacifist.

26. The Swatantra Party was an Indian liberal conservative political party that existed from 1959 to 1974. It was founded by C. Rajagopalachari in reaction to what he felt was the Jawaharlal Nehru-dominated Indian National Congress's increasingly socialist and statist outlook.

Main policies and programmes of party were:

- i. One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was economy free from State control.
 - ii. The Swatantra Party wanted the government to be less and less involved in controlling the economy. It believed that prosperity could come only through individual freedom.
 - iii. It was critical of the development strategy of state intervention in the economy, centralised planning, nationalisation and the public sector. It instead favoured expansion of a free private sector.
 - iv. The Swatantra Party was against land ceilings in agriculture, and opposed cooperative farming and state trading.
27. Congress was a social and ideological coalition of different groups, peasants, industrialists, upper and lower classes and castes, conservatives and radicals and so on. Its coalition like character accommodated all. It maintained a balance on almost all issues and everything was included in its ideology and programme. The coalition nature of Congress led to greater tolerance of differences within the Congress. Similarly, there were many factions within the Congress based on ideological or personal ambitions. As a result, the policy of tolerance and management of different factions, even if a group was not happy with the policy of the party, it would remain inside the party and fight the other groups rather than leaving the party and becoming an "opposition".
28. Three differences between Socialist parties and the Communist Party are as given below:
- i. The Socialist parties believed in the ideology of democratic socialism. The Communist Party, on the other hand, took inspiration from the Bolshevik revolution in Russia and advocated socialism as a solution to problems affecting the country.
 - ii. The Congress Socialist Party was formed within the Congress in 1934 and wanted a more radical and egalitarian Congress. However, after in 1948 when the Congress amended its Constitution to prevent its members from having a dual party membership the socialists formed a separate Socialist Party in 1948.
 - iii. The Socialist Party was divided quite a number of times leading to the formation of many socialist parties. These included the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, the Praja Socialist Party and Samyukta Socialist Party and others. The Communist Party was divided once in 1964 on the basis of ideology. As a result of it, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) was formed.

29. Importance of opposition in parliamentary democracy:

- a. Virtually, the opposition is an integral part of parliamentary democracy.
- b. In our democracy, the opposition parties got only token representation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in the 1950s. However, their thin presence played a thick and crucial role in preserving the democratic character of the system. The opposition parties did a sustained and principled criticism of the policies and programmes of the ruling party.
- c. The opposition parties prevented the resentment with the parliamentary system from turnings anti-democratic. The opposition parties also groomed several political stalwarts who were to play a significant role in the shopping of our parliamentary democracy.

Nature of role played by the opposition in India during the First Three Parliaments from 1952 to 1967:

- a. Though there were ideological differences yet democratic norms and values were followed.
- b. In the beginning, there was mutual respect and political tolerance. However, politic competition became more intense and the Congress found it difficult to maintain its dominance. The opposition was enlarging its political space. Opposition parties were in the forefront in criticizing the government. Now, the opposition parties realized that the division of their votes kept the Congress in power.
- c. In this way, the political parties that had entirely different political programmes and ideologies came together to form anti-congress fronts. By 1967, the political discontent was increasing and the process of political polarisation changed the existing

political equations.

30. The reasons for the dominance of the Congress Party in the first three General Elections:

- i. The first three Lok Sabha Elections of 1952, 57 and 62 were dominated by the Congress Party under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru has been described as the most important mobiliser for Congress. It was, in fact, proclaimed that even a 'lamp-post' would win with the support of Nehru and the Congress. This description did indeed reflect the partial reality of the Nehru phase of the Lok Sabha elections.
 - ii. Nehru raised national and international issues during his election meetings which drew large crowds. His capacity to attract crowds during his elections' campaign, however, was a necessary but not a sufficient condition to win the elections.
 - iii. A very narrow based elite was active during the Nehru phase of politics. The Congress Party machine and the various factional leaders nominated candidates on the basis of caste, community, and local influence. A social demographic view of constituencies, both general and reserved, conditioned Congress Party's choice of candidates. The voters were mobilized at the constituency level by local leaders on the basis of caste and community affiliations. In fact, the various caste and community leaders played a crucial role in mobilizing the voters of their respective castes, communities for the Congress candidates. Since the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were held simultaneously during 1952, 57, 62 and 67 the nomination of candidates both for the Assembly and the Lok Sabha seats were made on similar considerations of caste and community arithmetic.
31. i. The voter's choices are made under multiple influences of election issues, election campaigns, local appeals, party performance and promises. Many overlapping factors influence their decisions. The regional parties like the DMK, AIADMK of Tamil Nadu, the National Conference of Jammu and Kashmir, the Shiv Sena of Maharashtra and the Akali Dal of Punjab mobilize the voters by mixing feelings of regionalism, castes and community.
- ii. The minorities generally vote for weak secular parties. Minority community candidates are nominated by national democratic parties in constituencies which have sizable minority community vote. In the elections from 1952 to 1989, the Muslim minority voter has shown concern for the security of life and property, especially in the north and north-west India. Local Muslim leaders including religious leaders have been mobilized by secular parties to influence the choice of Muslim voters. The Muslim voters have unanimously voted against candidates of the Hindu communal parties. This is a conscious vote based on a perception of threat by the forces of Hindu communalism. To counter this threat, the Muslim voters have voted for weak secular parties which are perceived as the protector of life and property of the minorities. Of late, secularism of the Congress Party had been perceived as vacillating and ambiguous by a large section of the Muslim community. Communal riots have exercised great influence on the Muslim mind.
32. i. The cartoonist wants to show that in the early period after independence, the opposition's strength was comparatively weak and they were not in a position to topple the government of Nehru.
- ii. The opposition parties succeeded in gaining only token representation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Yet, these parties played a significant role by offering a sustained and often principled criticism of the policies and practices of the Congress Party. They kept the ruling party under check.
- iii. Tug of war refers to pulling out the Congress by criticism and mentioning its weaknesses in an honest and justified manner.
33. i. The State to which C. Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor-General of India, belonged: (D) (Tamil Nadu)
- ii. The State where the first non-Congress Government was formed by E.M.S. Namboodiripad: (E) (Kerala)
- iii. The State to which Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture (1952-54) belonged: (B) (Uttar Pradesh)
- iv. The State which faced the most acute food crisis in 1965-67: (A) (Bihar)
- v. The State which led the country to White Revolution through Dairy Cooperative Movement: (C) (Gujarat)