

# COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

## TABLE OF CONTENT



### Unit -1

The Nature, Scope and Methods of Comparative Political Analysis

### Unit -2

Classifications of Political System

(a) Parliamentary and Presidential

(b) Federal and Unitary

### Unit -3

Electoral Systems

First Past the Post, Proportional Representation and Mixed Systems

### Unit -4

Party System

One Party, Bi-Party and Multi Party Systems

### Unit -5

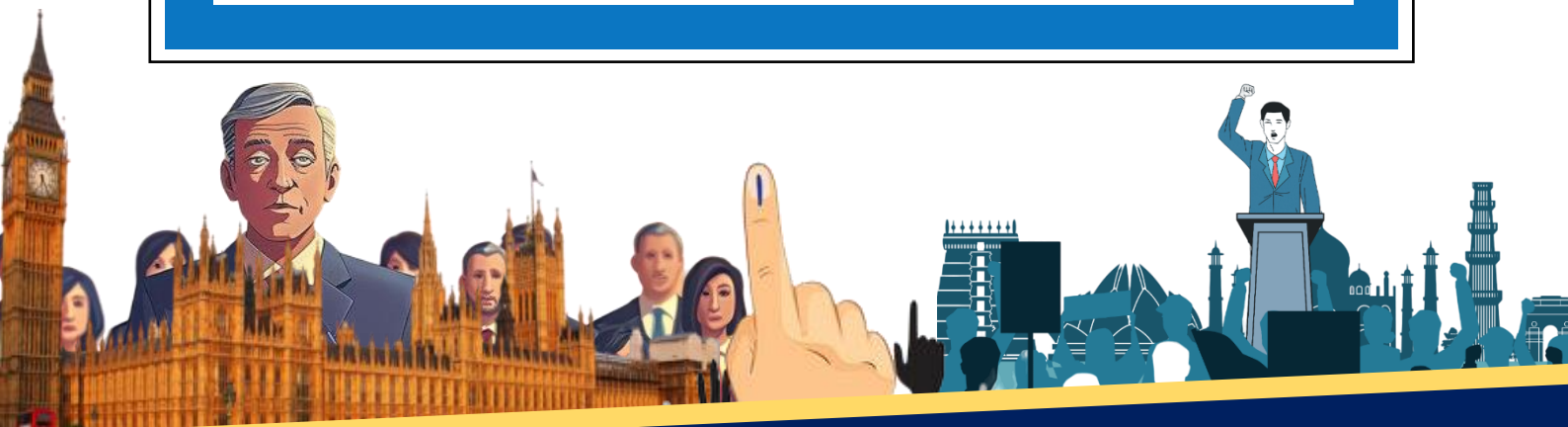
Structures of Power in Society

Classical Elitist Theory, Power Elites, Pluralism and Theory of Ruling Class

### Unit -6

Comparing Regimes

Democratic, Authoritarian, Welfare, Populism and Security Regimes



**Q 1 - Examine the nature and scope of comparative political analysis.****Answer - Introduction**

**Comparative Political Analysis** is a major field of political science that involves the comparative study of different political systems, institutions, processes, and policies. **The purpose of comparative politics** is to understand how political systems work, why they differ, and what influences their actions and outcomes. This study is done **to better understand and improve political events and processes.**

**Definition of Comparative Politics by Different Thinkers :****Jean Blondel**

According to John Blondel – "Comparative politics is the study of patterns of national governments in the contemporary world." "

**M. Curtis**

According to M. Curtis – "Comparative politics deals with the comparative study of important regularities, similarities and inequalities in the functioning of political institutions and political behavior." "

**Edward A. Freeman**

According to Edward A. Freeman – "Comparative politics is the comparative analysis of many types of governments and different political institutions".



### Nature of Comparative Political Analysis :

The main purpose of comparative politics is to ***compare different political systems*** so that some general principles can be formed in political science. To achieve this goal, two aspects of comparative analysis came to light. Thus, these ***are two assumptions about the nature of comparative politics*** -

1

**Vertical comparison :** In this, we ***study the changes in the political system of a country over time***. For example, analyzing the political system and its progress since India's independence till now. This type of comparison helps us understand how and why the politics of a country has changed over time.

2

**Horizontal Comparison :** In this, we ***analyze and compare the political systems of different countries at the same time***. For example, comparing the political systems of India, America, and China at the present time. Through such comparisons, we can understand how political systems work in different countries and how they differ from each other.

### Scope of Comparative Political Analysis :

***Scholars have viewed the subject area of comparative politics in two ways --***

**First,** on a large scale, under which all types of activities and situations of various political systems are analysed.

**Second,** which includes political behaviour, the way governments work and the political aspects of non-political activities etc.







***In fact, the subject area of comparative politics is very large, the major ones of which are as follows: -***

### **1. Institutional description of political systems:**

Though the description of political institutions such as **executive, legislature, judiciary, bureaucracy**, etc. is the traditional method, yet these cannot be ignored. Modern analysis pays more attention to **the way** and **behavior** of these entities work.

### **2. Study of political socialization :**

The study of political socialization of members of a political system **is an important topic**. political socialization decides the success or failure of any political system. It has been observed that **in developed countries the process of political socialization is faster**, while **in developing countries it is slow**.

### **3. Study of political culture :**

Political systems in different countries have different beliefs, values, ideals and expressions. Like **there are communist values in China** and **capitalist values in America**. Therefore, the study of political culture is important in comparative politics.

### **4. Study of political parties and interest groups :**

Political parties and pressure groups play an important role **in democratic practices**. Comparative politics studies the party systems and pressure groups of different countries, such as **the bipartisan system of America and England**, and **the multi-party system of France and Nepal**. It studies the organization of parties, their political activism, and their effects on policies.

### **5. Political Modernization and Urbanization:**

Comparative politics **studies the political behavior of citizens, changes in ethnic and religious loyalties, and the impact of economic development** on the basis of



education. It also includes the study of the role of specific people in politics, the interference of the military in politics, and the changes caused by urbanization.

## 6. Political Participation :

Political participation of citizens is studied in comparative politics. **Participation of citizens is not equal in all countries.** In liberal systems it is more, while in other systems it is less. Comparative politics studies these elements.

## 7. Study of Bureaucracy:

In comparative politics, **the functions of bureaucracy, their roles, and welfare obligations** are studied. Bureaucracy has pivot importance in every political system as they are the **agents of socio-economic change.** Policy making related to this is also studied.

## Evaluation

**Comparative political** studies provide guidelines for the effectiveness and improvement of political systems. Studying topics such as political socialization, political culture, and political participation helps us understand **how different political systems function and how they can be improved.** This comprehensive and in-depth analysis of comparative politics not only gives us a better understanding of political phenomena but also helps us to **develop future political strategies and policies.**

## Conclusion

Ultimately, the study of the above information provides the necessary guidelines for the development and improvement of political theories. Thus, the study of comparative politics is a rich and in-depth approach that leads to a broad and versatile understanding of political science.



**Q. 2 – What are the advantages of the Presidential System? Do you agree with the statement that Presidential system provides a strong leadership to the government and state?**

**Answer – Introduction**

Presidential system of government is a system of government in which the head of government is a **President**, through whom the system of government is governed. Under this, due to the fixed tenure, the President can be **removed from office only under special circumstances by impeachment**. This system helps to provide strong leadership to the government and the state.



**"Presidential System"** means a system of government in which the head of government is a president or president. In this system, the president or president is directly elected by the public and has executive, constitutional, and political powers. This system is quite popular. Example – Latin America.

**According to Garner,** "It is a system in which the executive remains independent of the legislature with regard to its term, powers and functions."



**According to Gettel,** "Presidential government is the system in which the head of the executive is independent of the legislature in regard to his tenure and to a great extent his policies and actions."



**In this, the head of the state is the President, in respect of the President:-**

- The President is elected directly or indirectly by the people for a fixed term.
- The President is the real head of the executive and exercises all the executive powers prescribed by the Constitution.
- The President can be removed before his term only by impeachment.

**Presidential System**





**Yes! We fully agree with the statement that "the presidential system provides strong leadership to the government and the state." Because this system has the following advantages –**

1. **Strong & Centralized Leadership** : In the presidential system, the president or chairperson serves as the head of both state and government, ensuring clarity and consistency in decision-making and policy implementation. The president holds extensive executive powers, enabling swift and decisive action.
2. **Independent Executive Branch** : In the presidential system, there is a clear separation between the executive and legislative branches. Members of the executive cannot also be members of the legislature, maintaining a balance of power and preventing abuse of authority.
3. **Legitimacy by Direct Election** : The president is directly elected by the people, which gives him widespread support and legitimacy. It increases accountability and transparency towards the public.

### **Advantages of Presidential System**

1. **Executive Primacy** : In a presidential system, the president or president is both the head of state and the head of government. All decisions and actions are made by the President and they are based on his own judgment. Which is unlikely to be opposed.



2. **Division of Power** : In this system, there is a clear division of powers between the legislature (Parliament) and the executive (government). No member of the executive can be a member of the legislature and they cannot participate in any proceedings of the legislature. Thus, the two branches are independent of each other and do not control each other's activities.





3. **President and Cabinet** : The President runs the country with the help of officials appointed by him, called the cabinet. The members of the cabinet are responsible to the President and hold office only with the consent of the President. Therefore, there is cooperation in running the government.



4. **Leverage Skills & Expertise** : The President can include experts and professionals from various fields in his cabinet, irrespective of the political party they belong to. It gives the government the freedom to use the best talent.



### Conclusion

The presidential system provides strong and stable leadership to the government and the state. This system makes the decision-making process faster and effective, clarifies political responsibility, and ensures legitimacy based on broad public support. Its numerous advantages make it an effective and stable governance system.





**Q 3 - What do you understand by British Parliamentary Government? Why is the parliamentary system still popular in the present times? Discuss.**

### **Answer – Introduction**

Parliamentary government is the system of government in which the **executive branch** is **directly elected from the legislature** and is accountable to it. It is a **democratic administration** in which the government is formed by the political party that gets the most seats during **elections to the legislature or the parliament**. It is the most popular form of government in the present time.



**British Parliamentary Government** is a system of government in which Parliament is the supreme authority and the head of government is the Prime Minister. The British Parliament is made up of two houses. The upper house is the **House of Lords** and the lower house is the **House of Commons**.

### **According to thinkers, the British Parliament :-**

- **According to Edward Coke**, "The power and jurisdiction of Parliament is so great, superior and unrestrained that it is not bound by any individual, for any reason or by any obstruction."
- **Blackstone** described the British Parliament as an all-powerful institution and wrote that "it can do everything possible which is not impossible by nature".

### **Constitutional Monarchy in Britain**

1. **Powers of the Monarch:** The powers of the monarch are not in writing and are not traditionally regulated by Parliament.
2. **Prime Minister and the House of Commons:** The process of democratization has given more powers to the Prime Minister and the House of Commons.
3. **Role of the Prime Minister:** The Prime Minister is the head of government, while the monarch remains the head of state.
4. **Powers of the Crown:** These include administrative appointments, command of the Defence forces, convening or dissolving Parliament, and assent to bills.
5. **According to Walter Bagehot:** The Monarch has the power to consult, exhort, and warn.



## Discuss the popularity of the parliamentary system in the present times

1. **Public Representation & Democracy** : In the parliamentary system, the representatives of the people are elected directly by the people, which strengthens the roots of democracy. MPs are accountable to the people of their constituency and raise their problems and needs in the Parliament. This ensures that the voice of the people reaches the government and public participation in policies is ensured.



2. **Accountability & Transparency** : In the parliamentary system, the government is directly accountable to the Parliament. The activities of the government are monitored through the opposition and various committees in the Parliament.



- Government's decisions and policies are presented for review to parliament members.

3. **Flexibility and Adaptability** : The parliamentary system has flexibility, which makes rapid action possible during political changes and crises.



- The parliamentary system has policy flexibility, whereby the government can change policies according to the changing time and circumstances.

4. **Legislative Process and Debate** : The process of law making in the parliamentary system involves intense deliberation and debate. Bills are introduced in Parliament where their various aspects are considered and amendments are proposed.



- It ensures that laws are passed only after wide consensus and deliberation, thereby improving the quality of legislation.



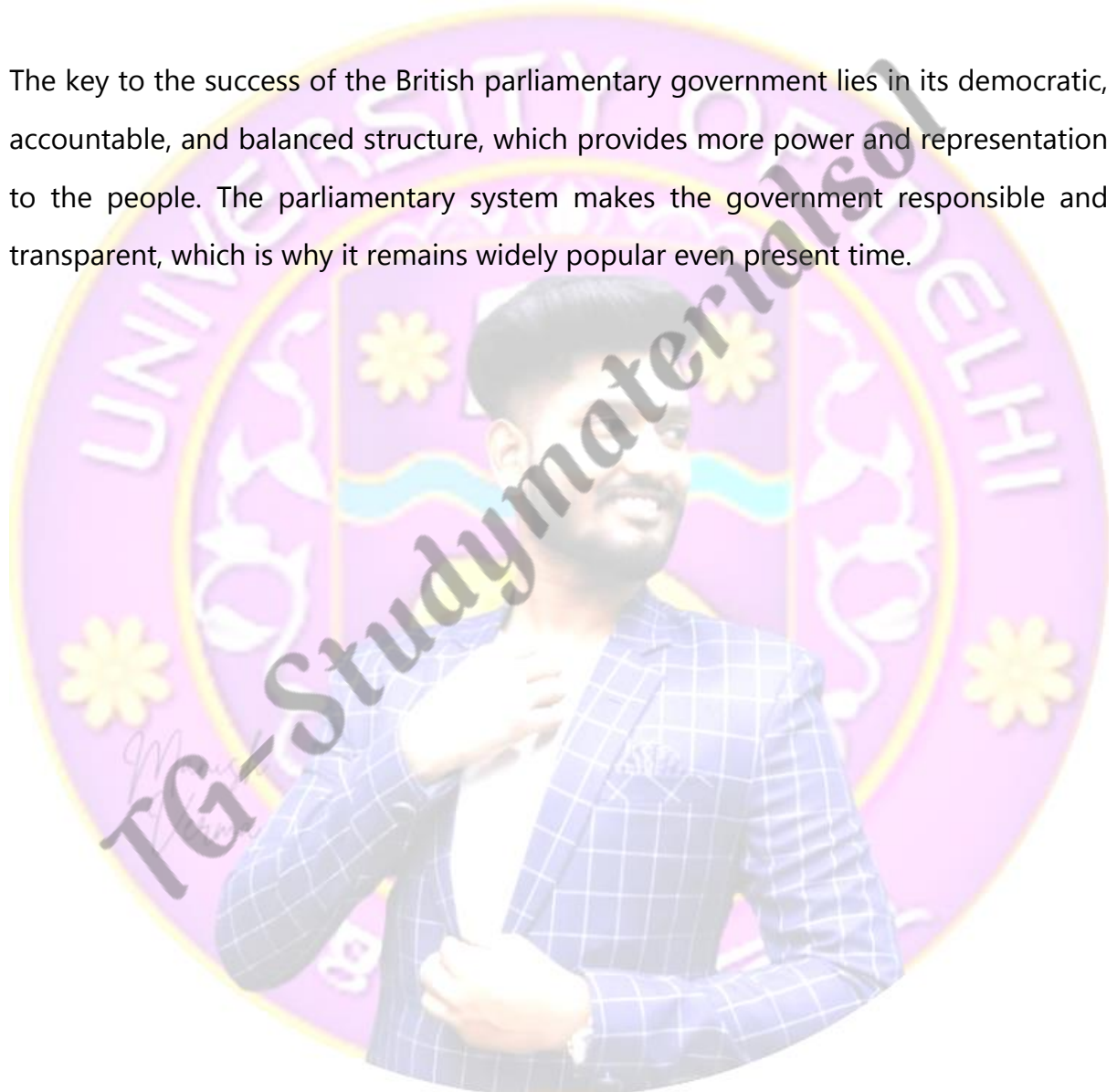


**5. Political stability and effective governance:** : In parliamentary system majority government is formed, which maintains political stability. A majority government can implement policies and programmes effectively.



### Conclusion

The key to the success of the British parliamentary government lies in its democratic, accountable, and balanced structure, which provides more power and representation to the people. The parliamentary system makes the government responsible and transparent, which is why it remains widely popular even present time.





**Q. 4 – Distinguish between federal and unitary political systems with suitable examples.**

**Answer – Introduction**

**Federal and unitary political systems** are the systems of governance adopted in various countries around the world. The main difference between these two systems involves the power distribution and administrative structure. In a federal system, **power is divided between the central and regional governments**. In contrast, in a unitary system, there is centralization of power, with **all power** being in the hands of the **central government**.



**Federal government** is a system of government in which power is divided between the central government and various regional governments (such as states or provinces). Both levels of government function independently in their respective jurisdictions, and their authority is determined by the constitution. **E.g.** US, Germany, Canada.

**According to Dicey**, “In the federal system of governance, harmony is established between the people's desire for centralization and decentralization. Because their desire is to create a union, not to create unity.”

**According to K.C. Heyer**, “The federal principle is the division between general and regional governments, so that they remain independent and equal in a particular area”.

**Unitary government** is a system of government in which all power is in the hands of a central government. Regional or local governments only exercise powers granted by the central government and their authority is controlled by the central government. **E.g.** United Kingdom, France, Belgium.

**According to Herman Finer**, “Unitary government is one in which all powers and authority are vested in a central authority. The centre and its agents of unitary governments are legally omnipotent.”

**In the words of A.V. Dicey**, unitarity indicates such a political organisation in which “a central power regularly exercises supreme legislative power.”



The difference between federal and unitary political systems can be divided on the basis of their **features, merits and demerits**, which are as follows –

Difference between federal and unitary system based on symptoms	
Federal System	Unitary Arrangement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a federal system of governance, the sovereign power of the state is divided between the central and state governments. Both are independent in their own fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a unitary system, all power rests in one authority, there is only one cabinet and one legislature for the entire country.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a federal system of governance, the process of amending the Constitution is complex.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a unitary system of governance, the process of constitutional amendment is flexible and simple.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a federal government there is a central government and state governments. The central government has authority over national issues, while state governments have authority over local issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a unitary system of government, the central government is supreme.</li> </ul>
Difference between federal and unitary system on the basis of Merit	
Federal System	Unitary Arrangement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most important and strong feature of this system is the decentralization of power.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under this system of governance, all the powers are with the centre, the centre is responsible for international decisions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final right to choose the central and state governments lies with the public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a unitary system of governance, the final right to choose the government usually lies with the central government.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While formulating policies by the governments, regional needs, requirements, interests and their views are kept in mind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In this, the objective of the centre is to promote maximum economic development.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in the Constitution are difficult because consent at both levels is required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is easy to change the Constitution as only the consent of the Central Government is required.</li> </ul>



Difference between federal and unitary system based on Demerits		
Area	Federal System	Unitary Arrangement
<b>Nature of power</b>	Decentralisation leads to balance of power but there may be lack of coordination.	Centralisation can lead to abuse of power and increased administrative burden.
<b>Meeting local needs</b>	States or provinces may create policies tailored to their specific needs.	There may be difficulty in understanding and meeting local needs.
<b>Innovation</b>	Different states can conduct their own experiments, which may lead to new solutions.	Central control may stifle innovation and policy experimentation.
<b>Constitutional crisis</b>	There may be more conflicts and constitutional crises between the states and the Centre but their impact will be limited to a certain area.	Constitutional crises are infrequent but once they occur they can affect the entire nation.

### Conclusion

There are important differences between federal and unitary political systems. In a federal system, power is divided between the centre and the states/provinces, ensuring diversity and local autonomy, but can lead to lack of coordination and constitutional conflicts. On the other hand, in a unitary system, power is centralised, providing stability and unity in administration, but can lead to neglect of local needs.



**Q 5 - What do you understand by electoral system? Discuss the merits and demerits of the First Past the Post system.**

**Answer - Introduction**

The electoral system is an important **constitutional process** that is one of the basic elements of democracy. It is a **process in which citizens have the right** to power and choose their leaders. The electoral system is considered as an **important pillar of democracy**, which helps to establish social and political space in government processes.



**The Electoral System** is a way in which people choose their representatives through elections. It is an important feature of democracy that establishes the government process. It helps citizens to gain the right to lead the government.

**According to Gallagher**, the electoral system is a code of rules and regulations that defines the structures on how votes are cast in elections and how these votes are converted into seats.

**Three main elements of the electoral system**

Ballot structure	Constituency	Electoral rules
How and for whom the vote was cast	How, the electorate is divided into territorially defined constituencies.	Assembly elections, a way to convert votes into seats.

**Principles of Electoral Systems**

Representation	Transparency	Inclusiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Objective:</b> To convert votes into seats.</li> <li>▪ Geographical representation, ideology, political representation is the basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Importance:</b> Important to avoid confusion between political parties and candidates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fair, legitimate and large-scale active participation of voters in the election process.</li> </ul>



## First Past the Post System

The **First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system** is an electoral system in which the candidate with the most votes must win the election. In this electoral system, voters vote for the candidate of their choice, and the candidate with the most votes wins, even if the top candidate gets less than 50% of the vote, which can happen if there are more than two popular candidates.

The First Past the Post system is also called the “**Pluralist System**” or “**Simple Majority System**”.

According to **Duverger's law**, “The First Past the Post system encourages the development of relatively stable political systems through two major parties.”



### Advantages of First Past the Post System

1. **Providing a clear choice**: This system provides voters with a clear choice between the two major parties. This system weakens third and minority parties, which reduces the chances of division of votes and alienation of voters.
2. **Formation of stable government**: This system often results in a single-party government emerging as the winner, thereby maintaining stability. In contrast, it eliminates the need for the formation of minority coalition governments, where bargaining takes place between the various parties in power.
3. **Opportunity to independent candidates**: This system also provides an opportunity to win to popular independent candidates, who are independent of party politics. This opportunity is particularly important where factors such as family, kinship, and caste influence the electoral system.
4. **Local representation and accountability**: This system establishes a strong link between constituencies and the respective representatives. Local (geographical) accountability is very important in agrarian and developing societies, and this system meets this requirement.



5. **Strong Opposition**: In the FPTP system, with the strong party coming into power, the opposition is entrusted with the responsibility of balancing the abuse of power. This enables the opposition to play an important checking role, thereby strengthening the functioning of democracy and maintaining the balance of power.

### Major disadvantages of first past the post system

1. **Underrepresentation of minorities**: The system does not represent small parties and minority communities properly, due to which they do not get proper attention.
2. **Increase in social inequality**: The First Past the Post system gives preference to representatives from most areas, which increases social inequality.
3. **Stifling of ideas**: Due to the lack of representation of small parties to the voters, the ability to propagate new ideas is restricted by the system.
4. **Promotion of social injustice**: Due to the lack of representation of minorities and small parties, social and economic injustice increases. This has an adverse effect in the interest of the weaker and backward sections of the society.
5. **Unclear electoral process**: The First Past the Post system often makes the electoral process unclear, as it does not properly include the voters of minorities and small parties.

### Conclusion

This system helps in choosing a good representative to run the governance system. It simplifies the process of forming a government and promotes independent candidates. However, its drawback is that it does not give proper representation to the minorities. It needs to be made more fair.



**Q.6 – Do you think that proportional representation is a better electoral system than others? Give reasons for your answer.**

**OR**

**"Proportional representation electoral system is more suitable to countries with diversities." Comment.**

**Answer – Introduction**

Proportional representation is an electoral system in which political parties **receive seats in parliament in proportion to the number** of votes they receive. This system is considered more suitable for diverse countries because it gives representation to the voices of different **Social, Economic, & Cultural Groups**.



The proportional representation system is an alternative to the **First-Past-The-Post System**, which incorporates a political party's percentage of votes in the legislature, emphasizes list proportional representation and a single transferable vote.



This system of representation was first presented by **Thomas Hare**, an English thinker of the 18th century, in his book "**Election of Representatives**", after whose name this system is also called the hair system.



**According to our view** – *whether proportional representation system is superior or not, it depends on the situation of different countries, the merits and demerits of this system make it fair and unfair for a country –*

**Reasons for its adoption based on the interpretation of key qualities**



The proportional representation system was adopted by countries like **Denmark, Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Italy** etc. due to the following merits-

**1. Balance in seat advantage**

A key feature of the proportional representation system is that it reduces the seat advantage for larger parties and provides equal opportunities to smaller parties as well.

**2. Representation of minority parties**

The proportional representation system ensures that different ideologies and groups get representation in Parliament, enabling them to raise their problems and issues prominently.

**3. Preventing monopolies**

In this system, no party can have absolute control in Parliament, thereby avoiding monopoly of power and plurality in decision-making.

**4. Inclusive decision-making**

By ensuring the participation of different parties and groups, this system accommodates different ideologies, leading to decisions being taken with a more inclusive and comprehensive perspective.

**5. Stability and Continuity**

In this system, coalition governments are more stable because they are based on the consensus of different parties and groups, and the inclusion of different parties ensures continuity in policies and provides more cooperation in implementing them.

**"The electoral system of proportional representation is suitable for countries with diversity." Justify the statement:**

Considering the above merits, it can be said that the electoral system of proportional representation is suitable for diverse countries (like India), as it involves all sections and communities in the political process and makes democracy more comprehensive and inclusive.





**Reasons for rejecting it based on interpretation of major defects**

The proportional representation system was rejected by countries like **America, India, Canada, Australia** etc. due to the following defects-

**1. Lack of Real Representation:**

The representatives elected through this system are not actually representatives of the people, but they are representatives of that party or class whose main objective is to fulfil their personal interests.

**2. Lack of Real Representation:**

When the number of political parties increases, no party can form the government alone. In such a situation, coalition governments are formed which are often temporary and destroy the unity and accountability of the administration.

**3. It is impossible to create the best methods:**

By adopting proportional representation, the legislature becomes an arena for various opposing views. This also affects law-making and the work of law-making cannot be completed properly.

**4. Promotion of Class Interests:**

The Legislative Assembly elected through this system becomes a place of conflict between various regional and class interests instead of national unity. All problems are considered from the point of view of class interests rather than national interest.

**5. Dangerous For National Unity:**

In proportional representation, society gets divided into small selfish groups and departments. These groups do not have any national level program and they spread factionalism and narrow-mindedness in the society, which harms national unity.

**Conclusion**

Proportional representation, while effective in reflecting diverse viewpoints, requires educated populations for successful implementation. Consequently, its popularity is limited, influenced by a country's political landscape, public awareness, and educational standards.



**Q 7- What is the role of political parties in democratic polity? Distinguish between a multi- party and one-party systems.**

**Answer – Introduction**

Public participation is paramount in the political system of any democratic country. In this, the **formation, operation and policy-making of the government** is done through the wishes of the public and elections. Political parties play an important role in democratic governance. These parties present different ideologies and policies before the voters and try to form the government.



**Political Parties** are organized groups that share the same ideology, policies, and objectives and participate in elections to gain and retain power. These parties play an important role in government formation, policy making, and governance.

Major Components of a Political Party		
Leader	Active Members	Followers/Supporters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without a leader, a political party does not exist.</li> <li>The leader is the one who leads the party.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active members do the work of reaching the party among the public.</li> <li><b>Example</b> : Active member of the Chinese Communist Party.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The policies of the party are followed and implemented by the follower or supporter.</li> </ul>

**One Party System** refers to a political system in which only one political party is in power and the government is headed by the same party and the formation of other political parties is prohibited.

**Ex. Communist Party (Cuba), People's Republic of China, North Korea.**

**Multi-Party System** refers to a political system in which two or more political parties are allowed to compete in the electoral process and often one or more parties have a chance to come to power.

**Ex. India, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Israel.**



### Role of Political Parties in Democratic Governance

1. **Selection of Candidates** : Political parties select candidates in elections and replace them in elections under democratic process. It is the major role of the parties which in a democracy selects the leaders of the people.
2. **Promotion of Policies and Programmes** : Political parties make voters aware of their policies, programmes and ideas. They work on their policies by focusing on social, economic, and political issues.
3. **Building Public Opinion** : Political parties build public opinion among the public about their policies. They come to the people through speeches, rallies, and social communication.
4. **Role of Opposition** : Political parties that fail to form the government play the role of opposition, which try to make the public aware by criticizing the wrong policies and actions of the government.
5. **Work on Welfare Schemes** : Political parties make plans for the welfare and prosperity of the people in a democracy and try to implement them. These schemes are meant for social, economic and political development in various areas.
6. **Link between the people & the Government** : Political parties use the voice of the people as a medium of communication with the government. Its purpose is to determine the decisions of the government according to the voice of the people.

Major Differences Between One-Party & Multi-Party Systems		
Field	One-Party System	Multi-Party System
<b>Selection of Candidates</b>	In a one-party system, only one party has the right to field a candidate.	In a multi-party system, there is competition between many parties and their



		candidates stand in elections.
<b>Description of policies</b>	In a One-Party System, the party has only one policy.	In a Multi-Party System, each party has different policies.
<b>Change in power</b>	In a one-party system, there is less chance of change in power because only one party is in power.	In a multi-party system, the chances of change in power are high as there is competition among several parties.
<b>Stability of Government</b>	In a one-party system, the stability of government is greater as there is less chance of change in power.	In a multi-party system, there is less stability of government as power changes hands among different parties from time to time.

### Conclusion

Political parties play an important role in the proper functioning of a democratic system of governance. The system of governance is strengthened through one-party and multi-party systems, in which in a one-party system, political parties have limited power and in a multi-party system, there is more competition among political parties in forming a government.





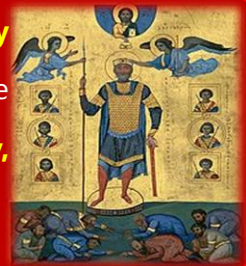
**Q. 8 – How does the power elite dominate the masses in society, what are the characteristics of the power elite, and how to evaluate it?**

**Answer – Introduction**

The power elite plays an important role in **formulating rules, procedures and directives for the proper functioning of a governance structure**. They are educated people with moral and intellectual superiority and are considered the most qualified to rule a society. Elites not only apply to the government ruling class but also to the highest social class of a given society, who have a significant influence over the masses in the society.



**Power elite refers** to a group of **educated, intelligent and highly talented individuals** chosen to rule society in general and influence the masses through political and social structures such as **bureaucracy, corporate, military, media** etc. who control key institutions.



**According to Pareto**, the elite comprises of all those people who score the highest on a scale measuring any social value or good, such as power, wealth, or knowledge.



**Mosca** uses the term 'elite' in a very limited sense. By elite he means the ruling class. According to him "In all societies there appear two classes of people - a class which rules and a class which is ruled."

**The power elite dominates the masses in society in the following ways:**

1. **Control over resources:** Majority of the social, economic, intellectual and cultural resources present in the society are in the hands of some groups or individuals of the society, which they use to exercise power over the people in the society.



2. **Effect of policies and decisions:** The decisions and policies of the members of the power elite have a direct impact on the public. If these policies or decisions are against the interests of the public, then it affects the quality of life of the public.
3. **Allocation of resources:** These classes take important decisions and make policies for the welfare of the society. They distribute resources among the people in the society so that both the society and the people can develop.
4. **Lack of control and authority:** Members of the power elite have power and resources that enable them to exert influence over the public. This can have a negative impact on the public due to the unequal distribution of power.
5. **Social and economic inequality:** Members of the power elite have access to social and economic resources, which can increase their inequality with respect to the rest of the population. This leads to a number of problems for the population such as poverty, education, health, and employment.



*In this way, the power elite has many ways of dominating the masses in society, which directly impacts their lives and development.*

### Characteristics of the power elite

Some of the main characteristics of the power elite can be the following:

- **Economic power:** Members of the power elite have control over economic resources, allowing them to have greater wealth, property, and business status.
- **political impact:** Members of the power elite play dominant roles in the political system and are able to influence policies and decisions.
- **Academic struggle and admission:** Members of the power elite have higher educational attainment and access, allowing them to enter and replace various fields of higher education.
- **Social status and reputation:** The social status and prestige of members of the power elite are considered high in society, and they have authority and trust as a class of society.



- **Traditional status:** The position of members of the power elite is often traditional, considered a part of their family or lineage.
- **Leadership skills:** Members of the power elite often have impressive leadership skills, making them more dominant in society.

*These characteristics influence the identity of the power elite and make them distinct in society.*

### Evaluation of the power elite

The power elite can be assessed to measure various aspects of society. Here are some of the key areas of assessment that may be included:

- **Evaluating social support-** The extent of social support of the members of the power elite can be assessed by measuring how effective their support and assistance is in reaching out to those who belong to the lower classes of society.
- **Evaluation of the economy-** Evaluating the impact of the economy operated by members of the power elite helps measure their commitment to their industry, investments, and the system of the economy.
- **Evaluation of morality and justice-** The social and moral commitment of the members of the power elite is evaluated by studying their policies, decisions and actions based on their moral values and commitment to justice.
- **Evaluation of Authority of Development-** Development efforts authorized by members of the power elite involve evaluation of their investments in education, health, research, and other areas.

### Conclusion

All these major areas involve exploring the characteristics, influence, and evaluation of power elites in order to understand their impact on society and try to improve policies and decisions regarding them.



**Q. 9- What is pluralism? Discuss various dimensions of Pluralism given by Robert Dahl. Political party functions.**

**Answer - Introduction**

Pluralism is an approach that encourages a variety of **Cultures, Religions, & Ideologies in Society** that are politically independent. Through this, despite having different types of identities and beliefs in the society, everyone is given respect and equal opportunity. The idea of pluralism or multi-authority has been presented by **Robert Dahl** while **criticizing the elite theory** within political science.



**Pluralism-** is a political and social theory that holds that a balanced society requires the coexistence of different groups, ideologies, and interests. Pluralism holds that the distribution of power and resources among different groups, organizations, and communities is important to maintain balance and justice in society.

According to pluralists, the key characteristic of government is that it is dominated not by a single elite but by a plurality of relatively small groups.

**Robert Alan Dahl** was an American political theorist and professor of political science at Yale University. He established the pluralistic theory of democracy, in which political outcomes are enforced through various competing interest groups. He used the term "**Polyarchy**" to describe de facto democratic governance.

**Important publications related to pluralistic approach by Robert A. Dahl:**

- (1) **A Preface to Democratic Theory, 1956**
- (2) **Who rules? 1961**
- (3) **Polygamy, 1971**
- (4) **Dilemmas of pluralistic democracy 1982**
- (5) **Democracy and Its Critics, 1989) with a more pluralistic-elitist approach.**





### Elitist Theory

The idea of pluralism in elite theory appeals to those individuals and groups who are socially, culturally, and politically disadvantaged in society. Its basic objective is to establish equality and justice in the society, which is important for social, cultural, and economic improvement .

**According to pluralists**, if an individual cannot remain in politics, his interests will be protected by interest groups, with constant compromises and bargains taking place between different elites.

Various dimensions of pluralism have been presented by Robert Dahl in his works while criticizing the elitist theory.

#### Different Dimensions of Pluralism Based on the Works of Robert Dahl

1. **Competitive Groups** : Dahl believed that there are different groups and organizations in society which pursue different interests. There is competition among these groups, and this competition makes democratic processes healthy.
2. **Decentralization of power** : According to pluralism, power is not centralized in a single place or person, rather it is distributed among different groups and institutions. Due to this, no one group can dominate and power remains balanced
3. **Access and Inclusivity** : In Dahl's pluralistic view, democracy is effective only when all groups and citizens have equal opportunities to participate in political processes. This means that every group should have a chance to raise its voice in the policy-making process.
4. **Discussion and dialogue**: An important feature of pluralism is that discussion and dialogue among different groups is encouraged. This brings forth not only diverse viewpoints but also broad consensus on solutions to problems.



5. **Diversity in policy-making** : According to the pluralistic approach, the ideas and interests of different groups have been included in policy-making. This makes policies more balanced and inclusive.
6. **Citizen Participation**: According to Dahl, active participation of citizens is necessary in a democratic society. This participation should not be limited to voting, but also in policy-making, discussion, and other democratic processes.

### Conclusion

According to Robert Dahl based on the above study, various dimensions of pluralism promote competition in society, decentralization of power, deliberation and dialogue, diversity in policy-making, and citizen participation which lead the society towards a successful development. Which helps in establishing democratic system in the society.







**Q. 10 - What do you understand by authoritarianism? Explain with examples how authoritarian and democratic regimes differ from each other.**

**Or**

**What do you understand by dictatorial rule? Explain the difference between democratic and dictatorial rule.**

**Answer – Introduction**

The system of governance is the system adopted by the government of a country or state. Through which the government **controls its citizens**, implements policies and enforces laws, which includes **authoritarian, dictatorial, totalitarian and democratic systems**. Which leave a different impact in their respective areas.



**Authoritarianism**- Authoritarianism means that efforts are made to limit and control civil liberties. Under this type of regime, political rights, freedom of religion are very limited. And one of the main aspects of authoritarian rule is that it lacks political activities.

In this system, the general public does not have the right to express their independent opinion or present their demands. **Example: China**

**Democratic governance** - Participation of people in governance directly or indirectly is called democratic governance. That is, governance elected by the people is called democracy. In which people elect their representatives themselves. In this system, people have rights. Example: India.

According to American President Abraham Lincoln, **“Democracy is the rule of the people, for the people and by the people.”**

**Dictatorial rule** - Dictatorship is a form of government in which there is a leader or group of leaders. Who have government powers with little or no limits. In this, no importance is given to fundamental rights and personal freedom.

In this system, the ruler acts arbitrarily with his subjects and cruelty, oppression and tyranny prevail in it. **Example: North Korea.**



**The following are the differences between authoritarian, democratic and dictatorial systems of governance -**

Major differences between democratic and authoritarian systems of government		
Area	Democratic	Authoritarian
<b>Social basis</b>	Diversity and equality of society are valued.	Only special groups or individuals have more rights.
<b>Limitations of power</b>	The limits of power are determined by the constitution and laws.	The limits of power are not clear, and rulers make decisions arbitrarily.
<b>Civil liberties system</b>	Citizens have freedom of movement, and to participate in elections.	Civil liberties are limited and those who raise their voice against the government are suppressed.
<b>Ideological position</b>	Different ideologies are welcomed and there is freedom of thought.	One ideology is imposed and other ideas are suppressed.
<b>Position of political parties</b>	There are many political parties which can contest elections independently.	There is usually only one party or a limited number of parties

Major differences between democratic and dictatorial systems of government		
Area	Democratic	Dictatorship
<b>The Decision-Making Process</b>	Decisions are taken on the basis of majority and there is participation of general public in it.	Decisions are made by one person or a small group, and public opinion has no weight.



<b>Freedom and rights</b>	Citizens enjoy rights such as freedom of expression, and freedom of the press.	Civil rights and liberties are limited.
<b>Effects on the economy</b>	Market based economy is promoted. And there is freedom of businesses.	The state controls the economy, which can lead to increased corruption and economic inequality.
<b>Media and dissemination of information</b>	The media is free and can investigate the activities of the government.	The media is strictly controlled and only information that benefits the dictator is broadcast.
<b>Electoral system</b>	Elections are held freely and fairly, giving people the right to change the government.	Dictators can control elections to maintain power.

### Conclusion

On the basis of the above study, it can be said that in authoritarianism, power is in the hands of one person or a small group. In dictatorship, the freedom of citizens is limited whereas in democracy there is more freedom and rights and the public elects its representatives.



**Q 11. Write a brief comment on the following.**

**(a) Difference between the democracy of America and Britain**

**(b) Mixed electoral system**

**Answer -**

**(a) Difference between the democracy of America and Britain**

### **Introduction**

Both the **US and the UK** are among the world's **oldest and stable** democracies. Both are important countries known for their **independence, stability, and social inclusion**. The constitutional process and judicial system of the democracies of both countries **have ranked them as developing nations**. This has strengthened their independence, role, and dignity, which further **enhances their importance in the world**.



#### **US Democracy :**

An American democracy is a **Federal Republic** with a presidential system. It consists of three branches: the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary (Supreme Court). The system is based on principles of individual liberty, civil rights, and power-sharing.



#### **UK Democracy :**

UK democracy is a **Constitutional Monarchy**, where the king or queen is the nominal head and the parliament runs the government. Parliament is divided into two houses, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. This system is based on constitutional traditions and judiciary.



**Differences between US and UK democracy:**

Area	America	Britain
<b>1. Constitutional framework:</b>	The Constitution of <b>US</b> is written and implemented in 1787. This constitution serves as the supreme law of the country.	On the other hand, <b>UK</b> has no written constitution. Instead, the UK constitution is a collection of traditions, conventions and acts of Parliament. This constitution is flexible and changes over time.
<b>2. Political system:</b>	The <b>US</b> has a presidential system in which the President is both the head of the country and the head of the government. The President is directly elected and acts independently.	On the other hand, <b>UK</b> has a parliamentary system, where the Prime Minister is the head of government and the King or Queen is the head of state.
<b>3. Division of powers:</b>	There is a clear division of powers in <b>US</b> : executive, legislature, and judiciary.	There is no clear division of powers in <b>UK</b> . There Parliament is supreme and the executive is closely related to it.
<b>4. Party system:</b>	<b>US</b> primarily has a two-party system: the Democratic and Republican Parties.	<b>UK</b> has a multi-party system, but two major parties (the Conservative and Labour Parties) are dominant.
<b>5. Government Structure:</b>	<b>US</b> has a federal system of government, in which power is distributed between the central and the state governments.	<b>UK</b> has a unitary system of government, in which the central government has primary power and the states have no separation.

**Conclusion**

There are clear and significant differences between the US and UK democracies. Ultimately, studying these two systems can help us understand how different democratic structures work and how they serve citizens in their own ways.

## (b) Mixed electoral system

### Introduction

**An electoral system** is a set of procedures and rules used to elect representatives and leaders in a government structure. Different electoral systems are used to **appoint members of government**. Mixed electoral systems or mixed-member electoral systems combine **majoritarian and proportional representation** (PR) methods.



**Mixed Electoral System** is a system that combines elements of different electoral systems to ensure that variations and imbalances in the election process are minimized. The aim of this system is to strike a balance between representation and stability.

### Important Types of Mixed Electoral System :

**1. Mixed-member proportional (MMP) system :** This system is used in countries such as Germany, New Zealand and Scotland. It involves electing representatives through two parallel systems – one based on single-member constituencies and the other based on party lists to ensure proportionality.

**2. Parallel voting system :** In this system, voters cast separate ballots for individual candidates in single-member districts and for political parties in multi-member districts. Countries such as Japan use this system.

### Important features of mixed election system:



- **Proportional representation :** By incorporating proportional representation elements, the mixed system ensures that smaller parties have a chance to win seats, leading to more diverse representation in the legislature.





- **Local representation :** Single-member district constituents allow voters to have a direct representative accountable to their local concerns, fostering a sense of community engagement.
- **Majority governments :** Mixed systems can produce majority governments while maintaining some degree of proportionality, providing stability and effective governance.
- **Fewer wasted votes :** Combining different voting methods results in fewer wasted votes than pure majority systems, where the votes of losing candidates do not contribute to seat distribution.
- **Balanced representation :** by combining different electoral principles, mixed systems aim to strike a balance between local representation and overall proportionality, allowing different interests within the electorate to be met.

#### Major drawbacks of mixed election system:



- **Two types of MPs :** There are two types of MPs in this system: those who are directly elected and those who are elected from the party list. MPs elected from the party list do not have a direct connection with their areas, due to which they do not understand the local issues well.
- **Increased party control :** Party lists increase the control of parties. To get a place in the party list, candidates have to be loyal to the party, which can reduce the number of people with independent views.
- **Complexity of ballot paper :** Voters have to cast two votes: one for the regional candidate and the other for the party. This makes the ballot paper complicated, due to which people may hesitate to vote.
- **More cost :** Conducting elections with this system can be more expensive than First Past the Post (FPTP) or Proportional Representation (PR). More administrative and technical arrangements are required to implement it.



### Conclusion

Mixed electoral systems attempt to bring together the advantages of different electoral processes. These systems promote electoral justice and ensure that different voter groups are represented effectively.

