DPCS-04

Comparative Parliamentary Studies

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

COURSE IV

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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CONTENTS

		Pages
UNIT 1:	**A Comparative Study of Political Systems of India, Great Britain and the United States of America** Political Systems of India, Great Britain and the United States of America	7–30
UNIT 2:	**A Comparative Study of the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary of India, Great Britain and the United States of America** Executive, Legislature and Judiciary of India, Great Britain and the United States of America	31–40
UNIT 3:	**A Comparative Study of the Party System of India, Great Britain and the United States of America** Development of Party System in Great Britain, the United States of America and India; Political Parties of Great Britain, the United States of America and India	41–57
UNIT 4:	**A Comparative Study of the Committee System of India, Great Britain and the United States of America** Features of the Committee System of India, Great Britain and the United States of America; Comparative Study of various Committees of India, Great Britain and the United States of America	58–73
UNIT 5:	**A Comparative Study of the Pressure Groups, Interest Groups and Caucuses of India, Great Britain and the United States of America** Features of Pressure Groups and Interest Groups of India, Great Britain and the United States of America; Classification of Pressure Groups, Interest Groups in India, Great Britain and the United States of America; Role of Pressure Groups, Interest Groups in India, Great Britain and the United States of America; Caucuses of India, Great Britain and the United States of America	74–90

COURSE INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth course of the one year Diploma Program in Parliamentary and Constitutional Studies. The fourth course or paper of this Diploma Programme is titled "Comparative Parliamentary Studies". The course is designed to provide some basic knowledge about the structure and functioning of some very important political systems of the world, those are - India, Great Britan and the United States of America. This course will help the learners to make a comparison among the governments of these three countries. This course contains 5 units. The units are as follows:

Unit 1 : A Comparative Study of Political Systems of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

Unit 2 : A Comparative Study of the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

` Unit 3 : A Comparative Study of the Party System of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

Unit 4 : A Comparative Study of the Committee System of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

Unit 5 : A Comparative Study of the Pressure Groups, Interest Groups and Caucuses of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

Political system is the set of formal legal institutions that constitute a "government" or a "state" . Political systems are shaped by the societies in which they function. Functioning of the political system of any country reflects the nature of that particular country. In the present time countries like India, Great Britain and the United States of America are considered as the most democratic countries where people can enjoy all kinds of rights and liberty. Therefore this course has discussed the structure and functioning of the political systems of these three countries. Accordingly the course begins with the discussion of the political systems of India, Great Britain and the United States of America and presents a comparative analysis of these three political systems. The government operates through its three basic organs which are the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary. The legislature formulates the laws, executive implements the laws and the judiciary interprets the laws made by the legislature and implemented by the executive besides adjudicating the disputes. The second unit of the course discusses the executive, legislature and judiciary of India, Great Britain and the United States of America. Political parties are indispensable to the working of democratic governments. They constitute the backbone of democracy. Accordingly the third unit focuses on the party system of India, Great Britain and the United States of America. Committees are inalienable part of a political system and it regulates different functions. Committees play a vital role in the working of the different governments. Committees of the legislature

undertake such functions which the House as a whole sitting in session may not be able to undertake and execute. The committee system of India, Great Britain and US has been working smoothly from its formation and has been improving. Accordingly the fourth unit presents a comparative analysis of the committee system of India, Great Britain and the United States of America. Presence of pressure groups and interest groups is one of the important characteristics of any democratic society. In a democratic country these groups act as a mediator between people and the government. These groups create awareness among people and thus make democracy more participatory. The fifth unit discusses the Pressure Groups, Interest Groups and Caucuses of India, Great Britain and the United States of America.

While going through the units, you will find that unit is further divided into certain sections and sub-sections, wherever necessary, for your better understanding. Again, the units carry certain activities after a particular section where needed. These “ACTIVITIES” will provide you the opportunity to practically apply your own thoughts based on the knowledge gained from reading the text in a particular section. Another category that has been included at the end of each section of a particular unit is “CHECK YOUR PROGRESS”. The purpose of this category is to help you to asses for yourself as to how thoroughly you have understood a particular section. You may then match your answers with “ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS” given at the end of each unit. The section “FURTHER READING” in each unit contains the names of a few books which you might want to consult if you are intereted in learning more elaborately about the concepts discussed in a particular unit. Furthermore, the category called “MODEL QUESTIONS” is in tended to give you a hint of the type of questions you are likely to get in the examination.

UNIT 1 : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNIT STRUCTURE

1.1 Learning Objectives

1.2 Introduction

1.3 Political Systems of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

1.4 Let Us Sum Up

1.5 Further Reading

1.6 Answers to Check Your Progress

1.7 Model Questions

1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- describe the political systems of India, Great Britain and the United States of America
- discuss important characteristics of the political systems of these three countries
- explain similarities and differences among the political systems of these three countries .

1.2 INTRODUCTION

Political system is the set of formal legal institutions that constitute a "government" or a "state." This is the definition adopted by many studies of the legal or constitutional arrangements of advanced political orders. More broadly defined, however, the term comprehends actual as well as prescribed forms of political behaviour, not only the legal organization of the state but also the reality of how the state functions. Still more broadly defined, the political system is seen as a set of "processes of interaction" or as a subsystem of the social system interacting with other non-political subsystems, such as the economic system. This points to the importance

of informal socio-political processes and emphasizes the study of political development.

Political systems are shaped by the societies in which they function. Therefore, it is useful to familiarise oneself with the historical, geographical, social and economic settings against which they operate, and to understand something of the values and ideas which have mattered and continue to matter to those who inhabit any individual country. In this short introduction, an attempt is made to understand the background factors that help to shape the way in which political life and processes operate in India, Great Britain and United States of America. In particular, this unit examines similarities and differences in the political culture of these three countries, since some of scholars have sought to identify broadly shared attitudes, belief systems and values that characterise the people of a country.

1.3 POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Democracy, literally, is rule by the people. The term 'Democarcy' is derived from the Greek *dêmokratiâ*, which was coined from *dêmos* ("people") and *kratos* ("rule"). The famous US President and statesman, Abraham Lincoln had defined democracy as a "government of people, by people, and for people".

Great Britain and India have parliamentary form of government. This is a democratic form of government in which the executive is selected from among the members of the legislature and is responsible to the legislature, is called Parliamentary government. A Parliamentary government is also known as the cabinet form of government because the ***cabinet*** is the real executive in it. It is also called *responsible government*, since the cabinet always remains responsible to the legislature for its activities. Executive functions are exercised by members of the Parliament appointed by the Prime Minister to the cabinet. The parties in the minority serve as opposition to the majority. The Prime Minister may be removed from power whenever he/she loses the confidence of the majority in the Parliament.

The US has adopted a presidential form of democratic government. This is a system of democratic government, in which the executive is constitutionally independent of the legislature, is known as the Presidential form of government. In this form of government, the head of the state who is also the head of government is designated as the President and hence the phrase, Presidential form of government. In this system all three branches - executive, legislative, and judiciary - are constitutionally independent of each other.

- **Political System of Great Britain**

  The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. The country's head of state is the reigning King or Queen, and the head of the government is the Prime Minister, who is the leader of the majority political party in the House of Commons. The British Constitution is mostly unwritten; it is only partly written and is flexible. The main elements of the government are the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. There is some overlap between the branches, as there is no formal separation of powers or system of checks and balances. For example, the Lord Chancellor traditionally was a member of all three branches, serving as a member of the cabinet (executive branch), as the government's leader in the House of Lords (legislative branch), and as the head of the country's judiciary (judicial branch). However, constitutional reforms enacted in 2005 (and entered into force in 2006) stripped the office of most of its legislative and judicial functions, with those powers devolving to the lord speaker and the lord chief justice, respectively. That reform also created the Supreme Court, which in October 2009 replaced the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords as the venue of last resort in the British legal system.

  Sovereignty resides in the the Parliament, which comprises the monarch, the mainly appointive House of Lords, and the elected House of Commons. The sovereignty of the Parliament is expressed in its legislative enactments, which are binding on all, though individuals may contest in the courts the legality of any action under a specific statute. In certain circumstances individuals may also seek protection under

European law. Until 1999 the House of Lords consisted mainly of hereditary peers (or nobles). Since then it has comprised mainly appointed peers, selected by successive prime ministers to serve for life. As of March 2016, of 815 lords, 701 were life peers, 88 were hereditary peers, and another 26 were archbishops and bishops. Each of the 650 members of the House of Commons (members of Parliament; MPs) represents an individual constituency (district) by virtue of winning a plurality of votes in the constituency.

All political powers rest with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and the Monarch must act on their advice. The Prime Minister chooses the cabinet from MPs in his/her political party. Most cabinet ministers are heads of government departments. The Prime Minister's authority grew during the 20th century, and, alone or with one or two colleagues, the Prime Minister increasingly has made decisions previously made by the cabinet as a whole. Prime Ministers has nevertheless been overruled by the cabinet on many occasions and must generally have its support to exercise powers. Because the party with a majority in the House of Commons supports the cabinet, it exercises the sovereignty of the Parliament. The royal right of veto has not been exercised since the early 18th century, and the legislative power of the House of Lords was reduced in 1911 to the right to delay legislation. The Cabinet plans and lays before the Parliament all important bills. Although the cabinet thus controls the lawmaking machinery, it is also subject to the Parliament; it must expound and defend its policy in debate, and its continuation in office depends on the support of the House of Commons. The executive apparatus, the cabinet secretariat, was developed after World War I and carries out the cabinet's decisions. It also prepares the cabinet's agenda, records its conclusions, and communicates them to the government departments that implement them.

- **Political System in the United States of America**

The presidential system is a form of government in which the President is the chief executive and is elected directly by the people. Some of its salient features are as follows:

(i) **Separation of power:** This system was invented by America's founders to provide an alternative to the parliamentary form of government. It became known as 'presidential' because a directly elected president was its most salient difference. This does not mean that the president holds supremacy like the prime minister or parliament. In fact, power in the presidential system is divided among many, so no individual or institution can ever become supreme.

(ii) **President and Legislators are elected for fixed terms:** This rejection of legislative supremacy is not the only fundamental difference. Since the presidential system was designed for a full republic, not a constitutional monarchy, it does not have a head of state. The government is not just an executive committee called the Cabinet, it's all three branches. The President, Congress (with two chambers: House of Representatives and Senate) and Supreme Court, work together to constitute a government, and all report directly to the people. Elections are therefore held more frequently than the parliamentary system; every two years for the legislature, and every four for the presidency. The President and legislators are elected for fixed terms. The judges are appointed for life, jointly by the President, who nominates, and the Senate, which approves.

(iii) **Total executive responsibility is assigned to the President individually:** Total executive responsibility is assigned to the President as an individual, not collectively to a council of ministers, as in the parliamentary system. The President's cabinet is not made of legislators but of any individuals considered able by the President and approved by the Senate. In fact, legislators are barred from holding executive offices, and vice versa. Conversely, the President cannot make laws. He/she can veto, but the legislature can override if there is broad consensus.

(iv) **US Federal system provides greater freedom to State governments:** Another big difference is with respect to state governments. The presidential system is designed for a federation, not for running states from the centre. Accordingly, its state

governments are independent, cannot be dissolved, and are required to be self sufficient. Federal and state governments are granted separate and specific powers; residual powers are left with the states.

(v) **US Presidential system:** an alternative to British cabinet/ parliamentary system: The Americans invented the presidential system in 1787 to replace their decade-old fraying structure. After gaining independence, the 13 American colonies lived under the Articles of Confederation. But that provided a weak central government and lacked a fair system for inter-state cooperation. The union began to fall apart. The founders knew they had to come up with a better system. Having lived under the British Constitution all their lives, they knew the parliamentary form of government was not the answer.

(vi) **Direct elections at all levels of government:** best known feature of the US system: They devised a revolutionary new system of strong but non-oppressive governments. The presidential system grants limited powers, empowers state governments, separates the three branches into different institutions, enables the minority to make laws, grants judiciary the power of review, and above all, gives the people a direct say. Direct elections at all levels of government - federal, state, and local - is this system's best known feature.

(vii) **US Presidential system is a Model to be studied:** Many nations have a so-called presidential system, but America is the model to study. In almost all other countries the powers are not as well-balanced. The American system is not difficult to understand or replicate, however it cannot be implemented piecemeal. Since it relies on institutions and their checks on each other, the structure of every institution is equally important.

(viii) **US Presidential system is not authoritarian:** The American presidential system is not authoritarian. The general depiction of America's President as "the most powerful man on the planet" has created an erroneous impression of autocracy. But nothing could be further from the truth. In 225 years, no American President has

even been accused of autocratic behaviour. Power in this system cannot find a focal point. This system makes it structurally impossible, due to its powerful state governments, division of spending and taxing authorities, and separation of the powers of sword and purse.

US and UK Political Systems in Comparative Perspective:

Great Britain and America both have bicameral legislatures, having a lower chamber (in both cases called the House of Representatives in the USA and House of Commons in the UK) and an upper one, the Senate and House of Lords respectively. In Britain, as in many other large democracies, a second chamber is widely considered necessary as a check upon the lower House, the government-dominated House of Commons, but it is also useful because it shares the parliamentary workload (and so reduces pressure on the House of Commons), has a significant role in legislation (especially the task of scrutiny and revision, but also of delay) and provides opportunities for careful deliberation of matters of public policy by people many of whom are expert in their chosen fields. In America, apart from its lawmaking and other roles, the second chamber provides territorial representation, with each state - however large or small - being represented by two members.

At present, in both cases, members of the upper House serve a longer period in office than do members of the lower House. Composition is determined differently in the Lords from in the Senate, and there are more members. Membership of the Lords was based substantially on heredity, until the phasing out of selection through inheritance in 1999. The present membership (June 2003) comprises- 544 Life peers, appointed under the terms of the 1958 Life Peerages Act; 92 Hereditary peers: under a compromise deal in 1999, elected from amongst their number on a party basis (they were allowed to remain until Phase Two gets underway); 24 Archbishops/bishops; 27 Law lords and all total there are 687 members.

In Britain, the House of Commons is the more dominant chamber. The Lords has a role in the legislative process, mainly as a revising body, although new - usually non-controversial - legislation can be initiated there.

It is unable to reject bills passed by the House of Commons, although it has a power of delay under the 1949 Parliament Act. This is not the case in America, where the two Houses have a very different relationship and are in theory co-equal. The Senate has some distinctive responsibilities (such as in the field of foreign affairs) and also has higher status. It plays a large role in the legislative and budgetary processes. It also has an important role in checking the Executive, via its powers of checking presidential appointments, and ultimately being the body which conducts any trial for impeachment.

Various factors make the Senate a more significant second chamber than the Lords. The Constitution, with its separation of powers, requires the legislature to act as a curb upon the Executive. Also, in a presidential system, the President is not answerable to one chamber only, so that there is not the same focus of attention on one house more than the other. Strong second chambers are more often found in federal countries and those which provide for effective regional representation. In the case of America, such considerations make it the strongest upper house in the democratic world.

Question Time is a much-vaunted British way of holding ministers responsible. Its merits - particularly those of Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday afternoon - have been much questioned, but the fact that he and other ministers must appear before the House and face often hostile questioning helps to keep their feet on the ground and brings them into contact with the comments and criticisms which people are making about government policy. As well as advancing an alternative approach, the Opposition party has the specific role of holding the government to account, throwing the spotlight of publicity on its acts, demanding a full exposition of the ministerial case and censuring ministers when it finds their policies and activities condemnable.

America has no such institution as Question Time, nor does it have a body equivalent to Her Majesty's Opposition. The system of government is very different. Whereas in Britain ministers are members of the legislature and via the doctrine of individual ministerial responsibility are accountable for the work of their departments and their own performance, in America the President is appointed directly and the Cabinet is hand-picked according to

the President's requirements and preferences. Cabinet members are not members of Congress and do not have to justify their policies before the elected representatives in Congress, though they may be summoned to appear in committee hearings. The prospect of being subjected to such investigation is bound to influence the behaviour of those who make decisions.

American investigative committees are powerful organs of scrutiny which are the more effective because the 'freedom of information' legislation makes it easier to gain access to key documents. They have the right of subpoena, which means they can force witnesses to appear and answer questions on the issue under investigation. In 1997 the Senate Finance Committee (a permanent standing committee) conducted hearings into the operations of the Internal Revenue Service. Temporary select committees have in the past conducted full-scale investigations of such issues as the conduct of the Vietnam War, the problems surrounding the Watergate break-in, and American involvement in the Iran-Contra affair. The McCarthy hearings of the early 1950s are but the most notorious example of the power of such committees, which have no real counterpart in Britain. Select committees probing the Westland issue in 1986 or the behaviour of ministers in the sleaze cases of the 1990s found it difficult to ever obtain a full picture of what was happening. Even after a lengthy investigation, it can be difficult to discern what actually took place.

Congress also has the key judicial power of impeachment. The House decides on whether the accused official has a case to answer and if it believes that he or she has, then the trial takes place in the Senate. A verdict of guilty results in dismissal from public office. Bill Clinton survived the process in 1999, but the ability of Congress to appoint special prosecutors to probe every aspect of a President's affairs and then bring impeachment charges (and the relentless media interest this creates), make it difficult for the incumbent to concentrate on achieving his or her policy goals.

Congress has two main advantages over the British Parliament whether in scrutinising legislation or in holding members to account. The first is the doctrine of Separation of Powers, which was designed to prevent

undue concentration of power in one location, and which denies members of the Executive the chance to sit in Congress. The second is the absence of strong party bonds, which mean that Congress members can act more as free agents, acting and voting as they think it appropriate to do; they do not feel beholden to their party leaders for their advancement.

Differences between parties in US and UK:

There are key differences between parties in the two countries, of which two are most important:

In Great Britain, parties are centralised and highly disciplined, enabling the governing party to bend Parliament to its will. Not so in the United States, where although American parties can exert some influence they are weaker, have less party discipline and a markedly less-developed national headquarters.

In the United States, the two parties are closer together on the ideological spectrum than in Britain. America is the only industrialised liberal democracy which has never developed a significant socialist party, and although the Democrats are the more left-wing or 'progressive' party, in ideological terms they are nearer to the Liberal Democrats and New Labour than to the Labour Party which existed in Britain for most of the 20th century.

For all of the signs of weakness and fragmentation in party systems, parties are unlikely to become extinct. Even if the bonds are somewhat tenuous, they remain as the main mechanism which links the voters and those who rule them, and they continue to perform useful tasks which today can be summarised as:

(i) recruiting representatives for national legislatures, and thereby at least influencing - in the British case determining - the choice of those who serve in government;

(ii) educating the electorate by developing, elaborating and 'selling' policies;

(iii) offering an opportunity for popular participation in the political process, even if in many cases this chance is shunned by the majority of voters.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What are the two Houses of the British Parliament?

.....

Q 2: What is meant by presidential form of government?

.....

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.....

.....

Q 3: What is the total number of members of the Senate?

.....

- **Political System of India**

Parliament of India:

Parliament is the supreme legislative body of India. The Indian Parliament comprises of the President and the two Houses - Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and Lok Sabha (House of the People). The President has the power to summon and prorogue either House of Parliament or to dissolve Lok Sabha. The formal assent of the President is necessary for bills passed by Parliament to become laws. The Constitution of India came into force on 26 January, 1950. The first general elections under the new Constitution were held during the year 1951-52 and the first elected Parliament came into existence in April 1952, the Second Lok Sabha in April, 1957, the Third Lok Sabha in April 1962, the Fourth Lok Sabha in March 1967, the Fifth Lok Sabha in March 1971, the Sixth Lok Sabha in March 1977, the Seventh Lok Sabha in January 1980, the Eighth Lok Sabha in December 1984, the Ninth Lok Sabha in December 1989, the Tenth Lok Sabha in June 1991, the Eleventh Lok Sabha in May 1996, the Twelfth Lok Sabha in March 1998, Thirteenth Lok Sabha in October 1999, Fourteenth Lok Sabha in May 2004, Fifteenth Lok Sabha in April 2009 and Sixteenth Lok Sabha in April 2014.

The Lower House of the Parliament, called House of People, consists of the representatives of the people elected from territorial constituencies. Thus, it is the representative House of the nation as a whole. The Upper House, called the Council of States, consists of the representatives of the federating units composing the Indian federation. Thus, this House represents the federal principle in the Indian Union. In terms of Article 81 of the Indian constitution, the House of People has a total strength of 545 elected members. Article 331 empowers the President of India to nominate 2 members of the Anglo-Indian community, if in his opinion, that community is not adequately represented in the Lok Sabha. Elected members of the House are elected for a five-year term on the basis of universal adult suffrage. Of the 545 elected members, 525 are elected from the territorial constituencies of the states and 20 members are elected from the union territories. The Lok Sabha is elected for the term of five years. It may be dissolved earlier by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. The life of the Lok Sabha may be extended beyond five years during an emergency under Article 352, up to a year at a time by an act passed by the Parliament. But such extension shall not continue beyond six months after the emergency ends.

The Council of States or the Rajya Sabha represents the federal principle in the Indian Parliament. It is a permanent chamber consisting of not more than 250 members 1/3rd of whom retire every two years. Consequently at the beginning of every second year, there is fresh election of 1/3rd of members of the Rajya Sabha. Of the 250 members of the Rajya Sabha, 238 are elected by the Legislative Assemblies of the constituent states and by members of electoral colleges formed for the purpose, in the union territories. The Rajya Sabha members are elected on the basis of proportional representation by means of single transferrable vote. Each member is elected for a term of six years. The 12 other members of the Rajya Sabha are nominated by the President from among Indians in recognition of their exceptional achievements in literature, science, art or any other field of life. This is a device to associate distinguished Indians with the legislative process. Though the

Rajya Sabha represents the federal principle in the Indian Parliament, but the Indian Constitution does not formally recognize the principle of equality of the component states. That is why in India unlike as in the US, the states do not have equal representation in the federal upper chamber. More populous states like Uttar Pradesh have heavier representation than the less populous ones like Goa and Nagaland, thus tilting the balance in favour of populous states. Such states have heavier representation both in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Table 1.1: The Constitutions of Great Britain, the United States of America and India: a summary

Issue	UK	US	India
General characteristics	Unwritten/ uncodified Flexible/easy to amend	Written/codified More rigid/less easy to amend	Written/codified Mixture of rigid and flexible ways of amendment
Constitutional principles	Commitment to democracy, rule of law, Monarchical government, Unitary system with Devolution Parliamentary system, Parliamentary sovereignty	Commitment to democracy, rule of law, Republican government, Federal system, Presidential system with Separation of powers, Popular sovereignty	Commitment to democracy, rule of law Republican government, Federal system, Parliamentary system, Popular sovereignty

Table 1.2: The Prime Ministers of India, UK and the President of the US: a summary

Issue	UK Prime Minister	US President	Indian Prime Minister
A parliamentary versus a presidential system of government	Prime Minister is part of the legislature and answerable to it. Must defend himself or herself in House of Commons - e.g. Question Time.	President detached from legislature and not required to justify his or her performance before Congress - unless impeached. Does deliver State of the Union speech there.	Prime Minister is part of legislature and answerable to it. Must defend himself or herself in Lok Sabha - e.g. No Confidence Motion, Censure Motion, Budget.
Chief of the executive branch or head of state?	Chief of the Executive only - smaller ceremonial role.	Chief of the Executive and Head of State - dual role makes job more burdensome but also enables the President to appear as embodiment of the people.	Chief of the Executive only - little ceremonial role.
A single executive: position of the Cabinet	Prime Minister has to work with the Cabinet, which meets regularly, and share collective	President has a Cabinet but it has considerably less status in American	Prime Minister has to work with the Cabinet, which meets regularly, and share collective

	responsibility with it, even if he or she may on occasion choose to side-line it when key decisions are made.	politics. He or she might not consult it when making key decisions. It does not include several powerful politicians, personalities in their own right.	responsibility with it, even if he or she may on occasion choose to side-line it when key decisions are made.
Security of tenure - length of time which can be served in office	May serve for as long as the public and party want him or her.	Limited by Constitution to two whole terms.	May serve for as long as the public and party want him or her; service might not be continuous.
Party leadership	Strong party leader: can count on support of back benchers in most circumstances. Also, powerful party machine behind him, to rally party beyond Westminster.	Cannot count on party loyalty or support - e.g. in voting lobbies of Congress. National party leadership much weaker. Impact of federalism / separation of powers.	Strong party leader: can count on support of back benchers in most circumstances. Also, powerful party machine behind him, to rally party beyond Parliament.
Ability to achieve desired policies and implement programme	High success rate for governmental policies, in terms of amount of programme	Presidential policies might not be carried out: several Presidents have difficulty	High success rate for governmental policies, in terms of amount of programme implemented. Even

	implemented. Even controversial programmes usually pass into law. (e. g. privatisation under Margaret Thatcher)	with Congress (e.g. Clinton and health reform; Obama and health care; Trump and tax reform).	controversial programmes usually pass into law.
Role in foreign policy and management of crises: national strength	Several Prime Ministers have been very powerful in time of war: opportunity for strong leadership. But global influence of Britain has declined post-war; lack of former industrial or military might.	Presidents tend to thrive on crisis management - e.g. Kennedy and Cuba 1962, George W Bush and crusade against terrorism following 11 September. US is the most powerful country in the world. It leads free world and acts strongly to try and enforce its world view.	Several Prime Ministers have been very powerful during crises: opportunity for strong leadership. Global influence of India is steadily rising due to democracy, economic growth and leadership of poor nations.

Table 1.3: The bureaucracy in India, Britain and the United States: a summary

Issues	Britain	US	India
Key personnel	Permanent secretary and higher civil servants who serve for several years and acquire wealth of knowledge and expertise, derived from functioning under different party administrations.	No comparable job to permanent civil servants; senior figures are political appointments of an incoming administration.	Cabinet secretary, Chief secretary and higher civil servants who serve for several years and acquire wealth of knowledge and expertise, derived from functioning under different party administrations.
Use of outside personal advisers	Less used in past, though recent governments have employed more in a bid to ensure that the political will of ministers is reinforced as they seek to impose a sense of direction on their departments. Act as minister's eyes and ears.	Secretaries of various departments surrounded by a coterie of appointees, political figures who help departmental heads to impose their will on the career civil servants below them. System most evident in Executive	Less used in past, though recent governments have employed more in a bid to ensure that the political will of ministers is reinforced as they seek to impose a sense of direction on their departments. Act as minister's eyes and ears.

		Office, especially White House Office where advisers act as a counter-bureaucracy.	
Traditional principles	British civil service noted for its permanence, neutrality and anonymity. Now less neutral and anonymous, with increasing comment about a 'politicisation' of service under Thatcher and Blair administrations. Senior civil servants now liable for interrogation by select committees, making them more accountable.	95 per cent permanent civil service, politically neutral, though appointments made by President undermine the idea. Political appointees not anonymous or neutral, but discussions between departmental heads and their advisers are kept secret to allow officials to 'think the unthinkable'. Never same reluctance to allow officials to appear before congressional committees.	Indian civil service traditionally known for its permanence, neutrality and anonymity. 'Steel frame' is now criticised for getting degenerated into a bamboo frame.

Power and influence of bureaucracy	Increasing comment in recent years about influence of civil service over policy-making. Suggestion that they wield real political power and dominate their political masters. But theory remains that civil servants advise and ministers decide. Minister takes praise or blame for conduct of department and its officials, answering in Parliament for what is done.	Bureaucracy not a single, monolithic institution, and various elements of bureaucracy differ in the degree of independence they exercise - e.g. bureaux in departments have great autonomy. Bureaucracy a powerful institution, large and complex, often seen as burdensome by American public. All senior members are appointed by the President who can remove them, but once in office often act independently.	Increasing influence in recent years of civil service over policy-making. It is called permanent executive that wields real political power and dominates political masters. In theory, civil servants advise and ministers decide. Ministers are accountable while civil servants are always anonymous.
Recent characteristics	Increased politicisation. Use of political	Characteristics of modern British	Disturbing trend of increased politicisation and

	appointees. Use of agencies and other unelected bodies. Appointment of chief executives in agencies in gift of government of the day.	bureaucracy long familiar in United States - e.g., politicisation/ political advisers.	use of political appointees, agencies and unelected bodies.

Table 1.4: The legislature in India, Britain and the United States: a summary

Issues	UK	US	India
Unicameral or bicameral?	Bicameral.	Bicameral.	Bicameral.
Size	House of Commons 659. House of Lords 687.	House of Representatives 438. Senate 100.	Lok Sabha (House of People) 545. Rajya Sabha (Council of States) 250.
Method of selection	Commons: direct election. Lords: mainly appointment.	House and Senate: direct election.	Lok Sabha: direct election (543) and nomination (2). Rajya Sabha: indirect election (238) and nomination (12)
Nature of membership	Both unrepresentative: too few women and minorities.	Both unrepresentative: too few women and minorities.	Both representative of diversity: more women are joining.
Status of chambers	Commons: significant. Lords: secondary role.	Theoretically equal, but Senate has higher prestige.	LokSabha: significant. Rajya Sabha:

			usually secondary role, but becomes crucial especially when ruling party does not have majority in Rajya Sabha.
Type and role of committees	Standing (non-specialist) for legislation; select for scrutiny.	Standing (specialist) for legislation and scrutiny: select for special enquiries.	Standing for legislation; select for scrutiny.
Law-making	Commons has main role, Lords does work of revision: most bills pass and impact of process limited.	Key legislative role for both houses, though relatively few bills pass into law: lack of party support.	Lok Sabha has main role, Rajya Sabha does work of revision: most bills pass and impact of process limited.
Watchdog role, investigation	Questions, Opposition and select committees.	Powerful investigatory committees: no Question Time or official Opposition.	Question Hour, Opposition, select committees, joint parliamentary committees.
Relative power	Loss of power: talk of 'Parliament in decline' and need for reform.	Most powerful legislature in world, though often talk of 'congressional paralysis'.	Loss of power: talk of 'Parliament in decline' and need for reform.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 4: Who can dissolve the lower House of the Indian Parliament?

.....

Q 5: The Upper House of the Indian Parliament is a permanent Chamber. (True/False)

.....



1.4 LET US SUM UP

- Political system is the set of formal legal institutions that constitute a government or a state. Political system is seen as a set of "processes of interaction" or as a subsystem of the social system interacting with other non-political subsystems, such as the economic system.
- Political systems are shaped by the societies in which they function. Therefore, it is useful to familiarise oneself with the historical, geographical, social and economic settings against which they operate, and to understand something of the values and ideas which have mattered and continue to matter to those who inhabit any individual country.
- Great Britain and India have opted for parliamentary form of government and USA has opted for presidential form of government.
- There are some similarities and some dissimilarities among the political systems of these three countries.



1.5 FURTHER READING

1) Bhagwan, Vishnoo & Bhushan, Vidya (2007) : *World Constitutions*. New Delhi : S.Chand and Company.

2) Chander, Prakash.(2000). *Indian Government and Politics*. New Delhi:

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4) Ghai, K.K.(2007). *Indian Government and Politics*. New Delhi: Kalyani Publishers.

5) Ghai,K.K.(2006). *Major Governments*. New Delhi : Kalyani Publishers.

6) Sachdeva and Gupta. *A simple study of World Constitutions*. Ajanta Prakashan.



1.6 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: House of Commons and House of Lords

Ans to Q No 2: Presidential form of government is a system of democratic government, in which the executive is constitutionally independent of the legislature, is known as the Presidential form of government. In this form of government, the head of the state who is also the head of government is designated as the President and hence the phrase, Presidential form of government. In this system all three branches - executive, legislative, and judiciary - are constitutionally independent of each other.

Ans to Q No 3: 100

Ans to Q No 4: The President of India

Ans to Q No 5: True



1.7 MODEL QUESTIONS

A. Very Short Questions

Q 1: Mention the names of the two Houses of the US Congress.

Q 2: State the names of the two Houses of the British Parliament.

Q 3: Mention the names of the two Houses of the Indian Parliament.

B. Short Questions (answer each question in around 150 words)

Q 1: Define parliamentary form of government.

Q 2: Write briefly about four features of the US presidential form of government.

Q 3: Write briefly about the composition of the Indian Parliament.

C. Long Questions (answer each question in around 300-500 words)

Q 1: Make a comparative analysis between the Indian political system and British political system.

Q 2: Make a comparative analysis between the Indian political system and American political system.

Q 3: Make a comparative analysis between the British political system and American political system.

*** ***** ***

UNIT 2 : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIARY OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNIT STRUCTURE

2.1 Learning Objectives

2.2 Introduction

2.3 Executive, Legislature and Judiciary of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

2.4 Let Us Sum Up

2.5 Further Reading

2.6 Answers To Check Your Progress

2.7 Model Questions

2.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- discuss the powers and functions of the three organs, e.g. executive, legislature and judiciary of the government
- make a comparative analysis of executive, legislature and judiciary of India, Great Britain and the United States of America.

2 .2 INTRODUCTION

The Constitution, whether written or unwritten, is a document that provides for certain laws according to which the powers of the government are exercised. The government being one of the essential ingredients of a State, it operates through its three basic organs which are the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary. The legislature being the law-making body makes the laws which are later on implemented by the executive. The judiciary interprets the laws made by the legislature and implemented by the executive besides adjudicating the disputes. Therefore, mutual exclusiveness among the three organs is necessary to prevent absolutism and tyranny.

2.3 EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIARY OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The constitution of a country lays down certain procedures according to which the respective government is expected to perform. The three organs of the government -executive, legislature and judiciary stand as pillars of democracy and these pillars are further strengthened by the constitutional provisions which prevent it from being arbitrary in nature. Each organ has its own area of operation which is clearly demarcated by the doctrine of separation of powers. The idea of separation of powers was conceived to prevent the good old saying 'power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely'. But in India, we can see the delegation of powers by one organ to the other at times to accelerate the efficiency of the government.

In the following sections we shall discuss the executive, legislature and judiciary of India, Great Britain and the United States of America.

- **Executive**

  As mentioned earlier the executive organ of the government executes or implements the laws. The executive organ consists of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and the Councils of Ministers along with civil servants. The United States of America has opted for presidential form of government and Great Britain and India have opted for parliamentary form of government. The President of USA is the real head of the state, while the President of India and the Queen of Great Britain are nominal head of the state. In India and Great Britain the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister is the real executive.

  1. The American President enjoys a secured term of Office empowered constitutionally. No one can remove the President before the expiry of a period of four years unless impeached earlier by the Congress which is a very difficult and complicated procedure. The British and the Indian Prime Minister, on the other hand, depends for his/her term upon the confidence of the House of Commons and Lok Sabha respectively. They continue in office as long as they enjoy the support

of the majority party in the lower Houses of the Parliament. The Prime Ministers of Great Britain and India must vacate his/her office, as soon as the lower Houses withdraw its support to him/her.

2. The American President is indirectly elected by the Electoral College though the election in reality has become direct. The British Prime Minister, on the other hand, is appointed by the Queen from the majority party in the House of Commons. The Indian Prime Minister is also appointed by the President of India from the majority party in the Lok Sabha. He/she actually represents only a constituency from which he/she is elected. But the American President, in the words of Wilson, is representative of no constituency but the whole people of the country.
3. The President of USA acts as the head of the State as well as of the Government. But the Prime Ministers of Great Britain and India are only the head of the Government not of the state.
4. Regarding responsibility to the legislature also there are differences between the American President and the British and Indian Prime Minister. The President is not responsible to the legislature for his/her action, whereas the British and Indian Prime Ministers are answerable and accountable to the House of Commons and Lok Sabha respectively. Besides, the President neither guides the course of legislation, nor is he/she a member of the Congress of USA. His/her influence on the legislation is indirect though very effective at times. The British and Indian Prime Minister, on the other hand, is the leader of the lower House of the Parliament and directly steers the course of legislation.
5. The American President is helpless if the majority in the Congress is against him/her. He/she cannot get all the necessary legislation enacted. On the other hand, the British and Indian Prime Ministers as the leaders of the majority party can get the necessary legislation passed. Thus, in this respect, the British and India Prime Ministers are comparatively more powerful than the American President.
6. The American President possesses the Veto power over laws

enacted by the Congress. No such power has been vested with the British and Indian Prime Minister. However, the President's veto power except Pocket veto is not final. His/her veto can be vetoed by the Congress. Hence, the President may not always be sure of enactment or rejection of legislation as per hi/hers wishes.

7. The British and Indian Prime Ministers are only the leaders of the Cabinet and they cannot easily afford to ignore the advice of the cabinet. The Prime Minister acts only as the leader of the Cabinet which is consisted of the leading party members with considerable backing. On the other hand, the American President acts as the boss and the Cabinet members are his/her subordinate assistants. The American President is the master of his/her cabinet.
8. The American President's power of making appointments and formulating treaties is subject to approval by the Senate. There is no such restraint on the powers of the British and Indian Prime Minister. All high appointments and treaties are made under the signatures of the Queen (in Great Britain) and President (in India) according to the advice of the Prime Ministers of both the countries respectively.
9. In Great Britain the Crown and in India the President can declare war but in actual practice, it is the Prime Ministers who declare war. But in USA, the President in spite of being the Commander-in-Chief cannot declare war. The Congress only can declare it. However, the President can create such conditions which may compel the Congress to declare war.
10. In USA the budget is prepared by the Bureau of Budget under the supervision of the President, but Congress can accept or modify it. In UK, the budget introduced by the Chancellor of Exchequer under the direction of the Prime Minister is apt to be accepted by the House of Commons otherwise the House faces dissolution at the hands of the Prime Minister. In India the budget is prepared by the finance ministry under the direction of the Prime Minister and it is bound to be accepted by the Lok Sabha, because the Prime Minister and the cabinet enjoy majority support in the Lok Sabha.

11. The President of USA and the Indian Prime Minister derive powers and authority mostly from the Constitution. On the other hand, it is the conventions from which the Prime Minister of England derives his/her powers and authority. Theoretically all powers are vested with the Queen/King and the Prime Minister and his/her ministers are appointed only to aid and advise the King/Queen. But in actual practice, the Queen is only a constitutional ruler, a constitutional executive in whose name the government is run. The real powers are exercised by the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.

- **Legislature**

The United States of America, Great Britain and India have bicameral legislatures. The two Houses of the US Congress are- House of Representatives and Senate. Two Houses of the British Parliament are- House of Lords and House of Commons. Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are the two Houses of the Indian Parliament. Great Britain and India have parliamentary form of government. In Great Britain there is parliamentary sovereignty. Parliament is regarded as the supreme in Great Britain. In USA and India the Constitution is regarded as the supreme. In parliamentary form of government there is a close relationship between the executive and legislature. In India the real executive, e.g. the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are responsible to the Lok Sabha. In Great Britain too the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are responsible to the House of Commons. In both these countries the real executives hold office as long as they enjoy majority support in the lower House of the Parliament. The United States of America has presidential form of government. In USA the President, real executive, is not responsible to the legislature. The President enjoys a secured term of office and cannot be removed from the office by the legislature, except through impeachment procedure.

The Senate, upper House of the US Congress differs sharply from the British House of Lords (Upper House of the British Parliament) and the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of the Indian Parliament) in many aspects. The US Senate is regarded as the strongest and the British House of

Lords is regarded as the weakest second chamber of the world. The British House of Lords is a hereditary chamber. Nearly ninety percent of its members occupy their seats on the basis of heredity. The Senate on the other hand, is an entirely elected chamber. There is no hereditary or nominated element in the Senate. The Rajya Sabha of the Indian Parliament also does not have hereditary members. It has both elected and nominated members. The British House of Lords and the Rajya Sabha are permanent chambers. The Lords are members for life. They do not retire. And in case of Rajya Sabha 2/3 members retire after every two years. But the Senators occupy seats for a period of six years--one third retiring after every two years. The Senate and the Rajya Sabha are living and dynamic chambers where the standard of debates is of high level. The members of these two Houses take active interest in the proceedings and are politically awake. The House of Lords on the other hand, is a sleeping beauty. The Lords seldom attend the meetings and do not have much say in politics. The Senate is a fully representative and a responsible chamber. In power also the House of Lords is far inferior to the Senate and Rajya Sabha. In legislative sphere the powers of the Lords is much inferior to those of the House of Commons. In England a bill may become a law despite the disapproval of the Lords if it has been passed by the Commons in two successive sessions. On money bills, the House of Lords has no power. In case of money bill the Rajya Sabha also does not have any power. The Senate, on the other hand, possesses coequal powers with the House of Representatives in legislation and finance. Besides, the Rajya Sabha and the Senate have power in the appointment of the President, treaty- making.

- **Judiciary**

In any democratic country judiciary plays an important role in upholding the rights of the people as well as maintaining the supremacy of the constitution. It interprets the laws formulated by the legislature and implemented by the executive. Supremacy of judiciary is a primary condition in the United States of America and India. Judiciary of both these countries have the power of judicial review. Any law passed by the

legislature and any acts of the executive can be reviewed by the judiciary and if the judiciary finds that particular law or act violates any provision of the constitution, the judiciary can declare such act or law as unconstitutional. But in Great Britain, the judiciary plays a limited role where parliament plays the absolute role in making or unmaking laws for the entire country. In Great Britain the judiciary does not have the power of judicial review. In USA the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President in consultation with the Senate. In India too the President appoints the judges of the Supreme Court according to the advice of the Prime Minister. In Great Britain the too the judges are appointed by the Queen according to the advice of the Prime Minister. In India, Great Britain and the USA the judiciary remains independence of the other organs of the government.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: State the names of the two Houses of the Indian Parliament.

.....

Q 2: Mention any two differences between American President and the British Prime Minister.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Q 3: The British House of Lords is a permanent chamber. (True/ False)

.....

Q 4: What is meant by judicial review?

.....

.....

.....

Q 5: Judiciary in Great Britain has the power of judicial review. (True/ False)

.....



2.4 LET US SUM UP

- Government of any democratic country has three organs, such as- legislature, executive and judiciary. The legislature formulates the laws, executive implements the laws made by the legislature and judiciary interprets the laws.
- The three organs of the government -executive, legislature and judiciary stand as pillars of democracy and these pillars are further strengthened by the constitutional provisions which prevent it from being arbitrary in nature. Each organ has its own area of operation which is clearly demarcated by the doctrine of separation of powers. The idea of separation of powers was conceived to prevent the good old saying 'power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely'.
- India and Great Britain have parliamentary form of government and the United States of America has presidential form of government. The difference in the forms of government has brought certain difference among the executive, legislature and judiciary of the three countries.



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1) Bhagwan, Vishnoo & Bhushan, Vidya (2007). *World Constitutions*. New Delhi: S.Chand and Company.

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6) Sachdeva and Gupta : *A Simple Study of World Constitutions*. Ajanta Prakashan.

2.6 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha

Ans to Q No 2: (i) The American President enjoys a secured term of Office empowered constitutionally. No one can remove the President before the expiry of a period of four years unless impeached earlier by the Congress which is a very difficult and complicated procedure. The British Prime Minister, on the other hand, depends for his/her term upon the confidence of the House of Commons. He/she continue in office as long as He/she enjoys the support of the majority party in the lower Houses of the Parliament. The Prime Ministers of Great Britain must vacate his/her office, as soon as the lower Houses withdraw its support to him/her.

(ii) The American President is indirectly elected by the Electoral College though the election in reality has become direct. The British Prime Minister, on the other hand, is appointed by the Queen from the majority party in the House of Commons. He/she actually represents only a constituency from which he/she is elected. But the American President, in the words of Wilson, is representative of no constituency but the whole people of the country.

Ans to Q No 3: True

Ans to Q No 4: Judicial review means that any law passed by the legislature and any acts of the executive can be reviewed by the judiciary and if the judiciary finds that particular law or act violates any provision of the constitution, the judiciary can declare such act or law as unconstitutional.

Ans to Q No 5: False



2.7 MODEL QUESTIONS

A. Very Short Questions

Q 1: State the names of the two Houses of the US Congress.

Q 2: Who appoints the judges of the Supreme Court in India?

Q 3: In Great Britain who is the real executive?

B. Short Questions (answer each question in around 150 words)

Q 1: Write briefly about any four differences between the American President and the British Prime Minister.

Q 2: Write briefly about any four differences between the American President and the Indian Prime Minister.

Q 3: Write the meaning of judicial review.

C. Long Questions (answer each question in around 300-500 words)

Q 1: Make a comparative analysis between the Indian executive and the American executive.

Q 2: Make a comparative analysis between the British legislature and the American legislature.

*** ***** ***

UNIT 3 : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE PARTY SYSTEM OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNIT STRUCTURE

3.1 Learning Objectives

3.2 Introduction

3.3 Development of Party System in Great Britain, United States of America and India

3.4 Political Parties of Great Britain, United States of America and India

3.5 Let Us Sum Up

3.6 Further Reading

3.7 Answers To Check Your Progress

3.8 Model Questions

3.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this until, you will be able to-

- explain the development of the party system of India, Great Britain and the USA
- discuss the salient features of the party systems of India, Great Britain and USA
- make a comparative analysis of political parities of India, Great Britain and the USA.

3.2 INTRODUCTION

This unit makes a comparative study of the party system of India, Great Britain and the United States of America. Party system is like a steering wheel for a country. The political parties are voluntary associations or organized groups of individuals which are inevitable in a representative democracy. Each and every political party tries to gain political power through constitutional means and desires to work for people and for uplifting the

national interest. In India, Great Britain and the United States of America, the Party system is working continuously from beginning.

3.3 DEVELOPMENT OF PARTY SYSTEM OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The evolution of party system in India, Great Britain and the United States of America has been taking place from their early years. Particularly we can mention about the Great Britain, where the first political party was developed in the world. Following Great Britain, the United States of America and India has also developed their political parties and gradually it has touched miracles.

- **Development of Party System in Great Britain**

  The party system of Great Britain is basically seen as the existence of bi-party system and it has been working successfully and efficiently. Political parties of Great Britain have played a notable role in their evolution as a Liberal Democratic system. The original development of British political parties started from the Puritans. They behave like an opposition in policy of religious toleration adopted by the Queen. However, after 1660s a drastic change took place in the history of British political parties, when monarchy was restored in England and the Cavaliers came to be very strong. Then gradually two groups were formed- the Whigs and Tories which played an active role in the Parliament when the Glorious Revolution took place in 1688. From that time onwards the origin and development of political parties of Great Britain gained a new impetus. After the landmark events of passing the First Reforms Act (1832), the Whigs got the name Liberal and Tories came to be designated as Conservative. Another important political party of Great Britain was established in 1899 namely as Labour Representations Committee and later on, in 1906 this Committee adopted the name Labour Party. Chronologically in 1922 elections, the Labour Party and in 1979 Conservative Party emerged as a ruling Party. Most recently in 2017 general election, 11 political parties have participated. Now, government

of Great Britain is run by Conservative Party headed by Theresa May. Some of the features of the British part system can be discussed as follows:

(i) **Bi-Party System**

In Great Britain the main electoral battle for securing political power is between two parties; namely the Labour Party and the Conservative Party. The two-party system in Britain has developed naturally. They are playing a deterministic role in the successful operation of the British Parliamentary system of government.

(ii) **Emergence of Moderate Approach of the Political Parties**

The emergence of moderate ideas is a significant feature in British political system. Both the parties are gradually involved in moderate activities and philosophies beyond their traditional ideas. Presently the Labour Party not only indicates its original ideas like socialism or to the rule of the workers, but also accepts importance of other social groups. In that way the Conservative party put emphasis on quite liberal policies.

(iii) **Continuity for the Power**

Political parties of Great Britain are continuously and actively involved in the struggle for power. Each of the parties starts preparing for the next election after one general election is over. Both the ruling and opposition party always seek a fresh mandate from the people. Significantly both the major parties always remain active.

(iv) **Well-Organized Opposition**

Well organized opposition system is one of the significant features of British party System. Along with 'Shadow Cabinet' the organized opposition is working as an instrument of control over the policies of the ruling cabinet. In British government the majority party forms the government and on the other side the minority party who is known as opposition party also forms a shadow cabinet. The leader of the opposition is respected as the 'alternative Prime Minister'.

- **Development of Party System in the United States of America**

The political parties in the United States of America have emerged

as a natural process of development with liberal political ideas. From its independence days, the shadows of political parties were developed and notably after a decade, in 1790 a stepping stone was moved in United States politics by Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of Treasury. He organized a group of senators and representatives within the government for lending him necessary political support and this organized group is known as the caucus or the Hamilton Party. On the other corner Jefferson regrouped the Anti Federalist and named it Democratic Republican Party. In 1824 Democratic Republican party was divided into two: (i) The Democratic Party and (ii) The National Republican Party. Later in 1856 the National Republican Party got the name as the Republican Party and Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican US President. The main aim of the Republican Party is the abolition of slavery, while the Democratic Party favoured its retention. Gradually in USA, bi-party system has developed. Till now the bi-party system continues and in 2016 Presidential election too, the two parties contested election. Some of the important features of the American party system are discussed in the following:

(i) **Two- or Bi-Party System**

The existence of bi-party system in the USA is the most notable feature. The parties namely the Republican and the Democratic Party play a dominant role in the US Presidential government. Besides these two major parties, there are also numerous parties in USA, but they have not played an active role like that of these two parties.

(ii) **Uniform Membership**

Generally Democratic Party is based on agriculturists. On the other hand the Republican Party is based on Industrialists. If we look at these two Parties initially we find an ideological difference between the two. But now we cannot find any contradiction and all the people of USA fully support to them. They are similar in the sense that both the parties have no any specific procedure and ceremony for joining, they get no signatures to their programmes or policies, they enforce no rules, they have no any system or means for

expelling the members of the parties.

(iii) **Strong Relationship between Interest Groups and Political Parties**

In USA, party system is closely connected with interest group. Both the two Parties have within it several well articulated interest groups. They are working for their party and especially put emphasis on the interest of the people.

(iv) **Less Communal**

American society is totally based upon diverse races, religion, cultures, languages etc. However, the US party system is free from communal politics. They are more educated and aware about their political rights. Political parties support to all races, religion and others.

Apart from these there are also some other noteworthy features of the party system of United States of America which are as follows:

(a) Similar programmes and policies of the two parties

(b) Dominant Players in Politics

(c) Local domination

- **Development of Party System in India**

Today, India is one of the stars in the world regarding political parties. India has adopted multi-party system from its pre-independence period. Notably India is a Liberal Parliamentary Democracy and a Pluralist society. The Indian government is formed by various political parties from time to time. The origin of Indian political parties are related to Indian National Congress, which was established in 1885 in the pre-independence time and it can be called as India's first organized political party. Chronologically, in 1906 Muslim League, in 1916 the Hindu Mahasabha and in 1924 the Communist Party of India was formed.

After independence a large number of political parties were formed in India and in the first general election of 1952, as many as 14 national and more than 50 states political parties participated. Gradually members of parties were increasing and according to 2014 general election as many as 464 political parties participated. This comprised of 6 national

parties (currently 7 National Parties after recognition of TMC as national party), 39 state parties and 419 unrecognized parties. It is seen that splits in the existing parties, different ideologies, internal power struggle are the main causes of emergence of new parties in India. These factors lead to rise of regional political parties in India. Some present noted political parties are Congress, BJP, NCP, TMC, Communist Party of India, Telugu Desam Party, National Conference, Akali Dal , Shiv Sena, AGP, BSP, SP, AIADMK, RJD , JD(U) , Telangana Rashtra Samiti etc. Some of the features of the Indian party system can be discussed as follows:

(i) **Multi-Party System**

India has developed a multi party system because of the huge size of the country, the diversified character of society, the adoption of universal adult franchise, unique kinds of political process and so on. It has been estimated that over 200 political parties have existed in India since independence. The right parties, central parties, left parties, communal parties, non-communal parties, regional parties -all such parties are found in India.

(ii) **Single Party Domination System**

In a multi party system where one particular party dominates overwhelmingly is called single dominant party system. Eminent political analyst Rajni Kothari preferred to call the Indian party system as "one-party domination system" or the "Congress System". From the first general election to 1967, the Congress party enjoyed dominant position.

(iii) **Lack of Clear-Cut Ideology**

In India, political parties lack clear ideology except two or three. They are ideologically closer to each other. The common ideas of each and every party are democracy, secularism, anti-communism, socialism and Gandhism. But most of the times Indian politics has moved around issue based rather than ideology.

(iv) **Rise of Regional Parties**

The rise of regional political parties is an important aspect of Indian

politics. It has changed the dynamics of Indian political scenario. From the post-independence decade to till now a large number of regional political parties have grown up. For instance Akali Dal in Punjab, Telegu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh, Asom Gana Parishad in Assam, Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, DMK and AIADMK in Tamil Naidu, National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir and so on. It is often stated that the lopsided development in different parts of the country led to the growth of regionalism in India and this paved the way for growth of regional parties which are playing an active role in Indian politics.

(v) **Caste, Religion, Language-Based Parties**

Factors like caste, religion, language play a predominant role in Indian political system in the formation of political parties. In this context we can mention Akali Dal, DMK, AIADMK, Bahujan Samajwadi Party etc.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: When was the Indian National Congress formed?

.....

Q 2: Who was the first President of the US Republican Party?

.....

Q 3: State the names of the two political parties of Great Britain.

.....

Q 4: In the political system of UK we have seen the existence of ……system. (fill in the blank)

Q 5: Uniform membership is one of the vital features of US party system. (True / False)

.....

Q 6: Mention any two features of party system of Great Britain.

.....

.....

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Q 7: Discuss the evolution of party system in the USA. (within 50 words)

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3.4 POLITICAL PARTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND INDIA

In the following section we shall discuss the important political parties of Great Britain, United States of America and India:

- **Political Parties of Great Britain**

  In the British Parliament which is the oldest parliament in the world, political parties play a crucial role. Initially the Whigs and the Tories were the two main political parties from 1678 to 1850s.The Whigs was the party of the liberal and reforming aristocracy. While Tories was monarchists and traditionalist, especially at the time of the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.In this context it can be mentioned that in 1850s, Whigs took the name as "Liberal Party" and in 1834 Tories became the Conservative Party. Significantly, after the First World War a new party came to power in British Parliament i.e the Labour Party. At present time apart from these two major parties, the UK Independent Party, British National Party of Great Britain, Scottish National Party are found in British political system.

  - **The Conservative Party:**

    During the nineteenth century the Tory Party was renamed as the Conservative Party in 1834. From the formation of the Conservative Party, its members are from the industrialist, wealthy person, businessman and the royalist. The ideology of the Conservative Party is promotion of private property and enterprise, the maintenance of a strong military and the preservation of traditional

cultural values and institution. The Conservative Party calls itself as nationalistic and rejects class struggle.

If we look at the history of performance of Conservative Party, it is seen that the first Conservative government was formed by Sir Robert Peel. It is notable that Conservative Prime Minister was leading the governments for 57 years during 20th century, including Winston Churchill (1940-45/1951-55), Margaret Thatcher (1979-90). Throughout the 20th century the Conservative Parties Domination in British politics has been considered as one of the most successful political parties in the western world. At present, in the last 2017 General Election, Conservative Party has formed a government led by Theresa May.

- **The Labour Party:**

The Labour Party is another key political party, which role is very crucial in Great Britain. The Labour Party was formed in 1906 and its political activities started continuing from the beginning of 19th century .The first Labour MP had been elected in 1990s.

Labour Party always opposes to capitalism and it supports to every workers of a industry. Labour party always emphasises on socialism through democratic policies and liberal economics and it has vehemently divided the ideas of colonialism and imperialism. Significantly the ideas of Labour Party has been changed from 1990 onwards and pursuing the ideology of full liberalism in both politics and economy and most recently it stands for liberalization, market economy and capitalism.

If we look back on the election performance of Labour Party, it is seen that the Labour Party formed government first in 1924 and then from 1929 to 1931 under the leadership of Ramsay MacDonald ; again from 1940 to 1945 and after the second world war it formed a majority government under Clement Attlee. The next Labour Party led government came to power from 1964 to 1970 under Harold Wilson and from 1974 to 1979 under Wilson and James Callaghan. Notably, from 1997 to 2010 ,in the early period of 21st century "New

Labour" era was Started, under the Premiership of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown .Presently in 2017 general election it is playing opposition role in British parliament .

- **Political Parties of the United States of America**

The US party system has bi-part system, namely the Republican and the Democratic Party. These two parties have won United States Presidential election after one another since 1852. Both these political parties have played a significant role from their inception. Apart from these, there are also some other political parties like Liberation party, Green Party, Constitution party etc. But their role is minimal as compared to the Republican and Democratic Party.

- **The Democratic Party:**

The Democratic Party is the oldest political party in the world. It traces its root to 1792, when followers of Thomas Jefferson adopted the name Republican to emphasis their anti-monarchical view. Since its inception, the Democratic Party has been changing its nature and character gradually.

The Democratic Party is mostly associated with the defence of slavery, great society concept, issues of civil rights and so on. Since 1912 the party has been playing as the liberal party on domestic issues. And since the middle of 20th century, Democrats have generally been in the centre-left and current support to social justice, social Liberalism, mixed economy and welfare state. From the 1828 the Democrats won various Presidential elections in US. Most of the familiar President of Democrats was Franklin D. Roosevelt, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama etc. The role of the party is significant as it has contributed in the development, wealth and prosperity and progress of American civilization.

- **The Republican Party:**

The birth of the Republican Party has been announced on June, 1856 as a Unified Political Force. Its formation was based around opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska act of 1854, which would allow each territory to allow slavery if they wanted to. The first Republican

President Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860. For the rest of the second half of 19th century, the country had mostly Republican Presidents.

The Republican Party has faith on federalism, capitalism, laissez faire, a strong military and national defence, opposition to abortion in all or most cases, individual responsibility and so on. The parties' performance in election is mostly balancing from 1900 onwards .In this period some of the prominent Presidents are Theodore Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush. In November 2016, Donald Trump was elected as US President and Republican Party again came to power.

- **Political Parties of India**

Various types of political parties are found in India on the based on caste, language, religion, region etc. Presently there are 7 National, 51 States and 1415 registered unrecognized political parties according to the Election Commission of India-

- **Indian National Congress:**

The Indian National Congress was established in 1885 in Bombay and it was the India's First organized political party. During the time of freedom struggle, Congress was playing a crucial role and it established in the minds of the people the feeling of Indian Nationalism. After independence Congress party identifies themselves as a dominant party from 1947 to 1967 in State and from 1952 to 1977 at National level.

The Congress party mainly follows the ideology of secularism and socialism and it always pursues the ideals of democracy. We can mention some of the key characteristics of Congress ideology. These are: upgrading agriculture sector, uplift of farmers condition, promotion of village industries, modern infrastructure in urban and rural areas and so on.

In Indian political system the Congress party occupies a dominant position. From the time of first general election of India, 1952 to 1977 the Congress party plays single party ruling system at National level

under the leadership of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi. But in 1967 the parties dominant position was broke down in Kerala and for the first time a non-Congress party was going to rule the state that is Communist Party of India. Consequently in 1977 after the national emergency of India the Congress was defeated against Janata Party for the first time at national level. After that in 1980 Indira Gandhi again came to power and then in 1984 Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister with largest majority (won 411 seats) ever in Indian democracy. From 1989 onwards coalition politics was developed gradually and in 1991, 2004, 2009 the Congress party forms government with the help of other parties under the banner United Progressive Alliance. Presently the Congress is playing opposition role in the Lok Sabha.

- **Bharatiya Janata Party:**

  The Bharatiya Janata Party was formed in 1980. The party can be called as a successor to the old Jan Sangh. The ideology of BJP is faith on socialism, Gandhian socialism and democratic values. The constitution of BJP declares under Section 2, "The party shall be committed to furthering national integration, democracy, positive secularism, Gandhian Socialism and value based polities. The party stands for decentralization of economic and political power."

  From the time of its formation, BJP plays a very active role at national and states level. From 1991 it has got above 100 seats and stands in opposition. In 1996 for the first time BJP came to power with the Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpeyee but it was dissolved. Again in 1998 and 1999 BJP emerged as big party in Lok Sabha and from 1999 to 2003 BJP ruled in India with the name of NDA (National Democratic Alliance). In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads the NDA government at centre and it rules more than ten states in India.

- **The Communist Party of India:**

  The Communist Party of India is one of the oldest political parties in India which was formed in 1924.The prime inspiration of the party

was the successful socialist revolution of Russia in 1917.The main ideology of Communist Party of India is Marxism and Leninism. It started its active participation in election from 1952.Notably in 1964 it was divided into two parties because of their internal splits and as a result Communist Party of India (Marxist) was formed.

- **Regional Parties:**

  Apart from these national parties a huge number of regional political parties are playing active role in Indian political scenario. For the first time DMK was formed in Tamil Nadu as a regional party. Gradually, Shiv Sena was formed in Maharashtra to save Maratha people and came to power for many years. Asom Gana Parishad was formed in 1985 with basic ideas of Assamese identity, immigrant issues etc. AGP ruled in Assam from 1985 to 1990, another term was 1996 to 2001 under the Chief Ministership of Prafulla Kumar Mahanta.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 8: In which year was the Communist Party of India formed?

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Q 9: Labour Party exists in Great Britain. (True/False)

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Q 10: Make a note on Republican Party in US. (50 words)

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3.5 LET US SUM UP

- The political parties are voluntary associations or organized groups of individuals which are inevitable for a representative democracy.

Each and every political party tries to gain political power through constitutional means and desires to work for people and for promoting the national interest.

- There are three types of party system around the world. They are: (i) One-Party system ((ii) Two- or bi-Party system and (iii) Multi-Party system.
- India has adopted multi-party system since its pre-independence period. Notably India is a Liberal Parliamentary Democracy and a Pluralist society. Some present noted political parties are Congress, BJP, NCP, TMC, Communist Party of India, Telugu Desam Party, National Conference, Akali Dal, Shiv Sena, AGP, BSP, SP, AIADMK, RJD, JD(U), Telangana Rashtra Samiti etc.
- The party system of Great Britain is basically seen as the existence of bi-party system and it has been working successfully and efficiently.
- In US, bi-party system is developed. Till now the bi-party system exists and in 2016 Presidential election too, the two parties contested election.
- Multi-party system, one-party domination, lack of clear ideology, rise of regional parties are the main features of Indian Party system.
- A bi-party system, emergence of moderate approach of the political parties, well-organized opposition are the prime features of Great Britain party system.
- Bi-party system, uniform membership, less communal are the significant features of American party system.
- In India after independence Congress party identifies themselves as a dominant party from 1947 to 1967 in State and from 1952 to 1977, 1980 to 1996 at National level.
- Throughout the 20th century, the Conservative Party's domination in British politics has been considered as one of the most successful political parties in the western world.
- The US political parties basically depend on two-party system namely the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. These two parties

have won United States Presidential election after one another since 1852.

- The Democratic Party is mostly associated with the defense of slavery, great society concept, issues of civil rights and so on. Since 1912 the party has been playing as the liberal party on domestic issues. And since the middle of 20th century, Democrats have generally been in the centre-left and current support to social Justice, social Liberalism, mixed economy and welfare state.
- The belief of the Republican Party is federalism, capitalism, laissez faire, a strong military and national defense, oppose abortion in all or most cases, individual responsibility and so on.



3.6 FURTHER READING

1) Chhibber, Pradeep and Kollman, Ken. (2004). *The Formation of National Party System: Federalism and Party Competition in Canada, Great Britain, India and the United States*. Princeton University Press.
2) Kapur, Arup Chand (1993). *Select Constitutions*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company Limited.
3) Gupta, B. B. *Comparative Study of Six Living Constitutions.* New Delhi: Sterling Publishers (P) LTD.
4) Laxmikanth, M (2016). *Indian Polity*. New Delhi: McGraw Hill Education (India) Private Limited.



3.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: 1885

Ans to Q No 2: Abraham Lincoln

Ans to Q No 3: Labour Party and the Conservative Party

Ans to Q No 4: bi-party

Ans to Q No 5: True

Ans to Q No 6: i) Bi-party system: existence of bi party system is a noteworthy feature of British party system. The two parties namely - the Labour Party and the Conservative Party are playing a deterministic role in the successful operation of the British Parliamentary system of government.

ii) Well-organized opposition: Well-organized opposition system is one of the significant features of British party system. Along with "shadow cabinet" the organized opposition is working as an instrument of control over the policies of the ruling cabinet.

Ans to Q No 7: The political parties of the USA have emerged as a natural process of development with liberal and political ideas. Right since its inception the shadow of political parties were developed. In 1790, Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of Treasury organized a group of senators and representatives within the government for lending him necessary political support and this organized group is known as the caucus or the Hamilton Party. On the other corner Jefferson regrouped the Anti-Federalist and named it Democratic Republican Party. In 1824, Democratic Republican Party was divided into two- i) The Democratic Party, and ii) The National Republican Party. Later in 1856 the National Republican Party got the name as the Republican Party. Gradually in the US, bi-party system developed. In 2016 Presidential election too, the two parties - Republican and Democratic -contested elections.

Ans to Q No 8: 1924

Ans to Q No 9: True

Ans to Q No 10: The Republican Party is one of the major parties in USA. Its formation was based around opposition to the Kansas -Nebraska Act of 1854, which would allow each territory to allow slavery if they wanted to. The Republican Party believes in federalism, capitalism, laissez faire, a strong military and national defense, opposes abortion in all or most cases, advocates individual responsibility and so on. The performance of this party in election is mostly balancing since 1900. Recently in November 2016 Donald Trump of the Republican Party was elected as US President and the party is running White House.



3.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: How many national parties are there in India?

Q 2: Mention the names of two political parties of Great Britain.

Q 3: From which party Barack Obama was elected as US President?

B) Short Questions (answer each question in around 150 words)

Q 1: Examine the role of "one party domination system" in India.

Q 2: Write a short note on evolution of party system in Great Britain.

Q 3: Explain any four features of party system of India.

Q 4: Write a brief note on the Liberal Democratic party of Great Britain.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Compare the evolution of party system in India and the United States of America.

Q 2: Compare political parties of Great Britain and the United States of America.

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UNIT 4 : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNIT STRUCTURE

4.1 Learning Objectives

4.2 Introduction

4.3 Features of the Committee System of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

4.4 A Comparative Study of various Committees of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

4.5 Let Us Sum Up

4.6 Further Reading

4.7 Answers to Check Your Progress

4.8 Model Questions

4.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain features of committee system of India, Great Britain and the USA
- discuss and compare committee system of India, Great Britain and the USA.

4.2 INTRODUCTION

This unit introduces you to the comparative study of the committee system of India, Great Britain and the United States of America. Committees are inalienable part of a political system and it regulates different functions. Committees play a vital role in the works of the different governments. The committee system of India, Great Britain and US has been working smoothly from its formation and has been improving. In India and Great Britain, committee system is mainly made up of a small number of parliamentarians appointed to deal with particular areas or issues originating in the

Parliamentary Democracy. But in US, there are differences because of the existence of Presidential form of government. With the help of committees India, Great Britain and the USA are systematically doing law-making and other activities. In India, basic emphasis is on Parliamentary Committees. In Great Britain we emphasize on the Committee system of the House of Commons and in the USA, we have discussed various kinds of Committees that each House of the US Congress appoints.

4.3 FEATURES OF THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **Features of the Indian Committee System**

The main features of the Indian committee system as it operates are as follows:

1. Term of members: The tenure of members of each committee is only one year. After one year, new members are appointed in each committee.
2. Members are allotted from parties through the system of proportional representation: Members of these committees are appointed on the basis of the system of proportional representation from each party. This process brings effectiveness and transparency to the committees.
3. May seek help of outside experts or suggestions of general public: Committees can invite expert from various fields relating to committees subjects. In addition to experts, committees can also invite general public for suggestions.
4. In-camera proceedings are held: Significantly each and every meeting, conference of committees are recorded in camera. It gives a new dimension to the committees of the Indian Parliament.
5. Decisions are taken on majority basis: The decisions of the committees are taken on the basis of majority support. It is a process where committees are moving in the right direction.

- **Features of the Committee System of Great Britain**

Some of the important features of the British Committee system can be discussed as follows:

1. In British Parliamentary Committees, the Committees from the House of Commons play quite a prominent role.
2. The vital character of committees is to reduce Parliamentary law-making pressure on both the Houses.
3. Discussions of any non-money bill is placed only in Standing Committees.
4. The functioning of the Select Committees is like a semi-judicial body.
5. In regards of bills the decisions of any committee is regarded as final.

- **Features of the Committee System of the United States of America**

Some of the important features of the American committee system are:

1. The committee system of the US Congress is seen very powerful. Particularly, the Standing Committees are powerful because this can virtually kill any bill.
2. The Standing Committees are also known as Subject Committees. Each Committee has one particular subject. Apart from one subject, two or three subjects are also highly related to the Standing Committees.
3. Both the Houses of US Congress has its own committees.
4. There are no similarities among the members of each committee. A member of the House of Representatives can serve only one committee and a Senator cannot be a member of more than two committees.
5. In Senate, most of the Standing Committees have a strength of 17 each, while in the House of Representative, the strength of majority of the committees is around 30 each.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Which system is used in appointment of members of parliamentary committees in India?

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Q 2: The Standing Committees are also known as …… in the USA.(fill in the Blank)

Q 3: The tenure of members of each committee is only one year in India. (True / False)

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Q 4: Mention any two features of committee system of India.

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4.4 A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Now, we are going to discuss the detailed structure of the committee systems of India, Great Britain and the United States of America respectively:

- **Committee System of the Indian Parliament**

The functions of the Parliament are not only varied in nature but, considerable in volume. It cannot make very detailed scrutiny of all legislative and other matters that comes up before it. A good deal of its business is therefore transacted in committees. Our Parliamentary Committees have been formed on the British model.

In India, Parliamentary Committee means a Committee that is utterly appointed or elected by the two Houses of Parliament or nominated by the Speaker or the Chairman. The committees work under the direction of the speaker or chairman, present its all report and document to the House or to the Speaker or Chairman and most interestingly it has Secretariat provided by the Lok Saba or Rajya Sabha. All these types of

activities, rules are made by the two houses under Article 118(1) of the Indian Constitution.

In India we see there are broadly two types of Parliamentary Committees- Standing committees and Ad Hoc Committees.

(i) **Standing Committees**

Standing Committees are permanent and elected or nominated every year or periodically and their works are going on, more or less on a continuous basis. Standing Committees can be classified into various categories on the basis of their nature of functions. Under Standing Committees there are three Financial Committees. They include-

(a) **Public Accounts Committee:** The emergence of this Committee was found during the role of British Period and it was set up in 1921 under the provision of the Government of India Act of 1919 and has since been in existence. Presently, it consists of 22 members in which 15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha and members are elected by the Parliament every year. The tenure of office of the members is one year and a Chairman is appointed by the Speaker from amongst it members. The functions of the Public Accounts Committee is to scrutinize the annual audit report of the government and Comptroller and Auditor General of India. It ensures that public money is spent in accordance with Parliament's decision and calls attentions to cases of waste, extravagance, loss or nugatory expenditure.

(b) **Estimates Committee:** The origin of Estimates Committee can be traced to the Standing Financial Committee set up in 1921. In the post-independence era, the first Estimates Committee was established in 1950. It was an outcome of recommendation of John Mathai, the then Finance Minister of India. Primarily, it had 25 members but its membership was raised to 30 in 1956. Most notably all the members of Estimates Committee are from Lok Sabha and there are no representatives from Rajya Sabha. The tenure of office is one year and appointment of Chairman is

conducted by the speaker of Public Accounts Committee. The main function of the Estimates Committee is to examine the estimates included in the budget and suggest economics in public expenditure also. For these kinds of activities, Estimates Committee is also called as "Continuous Economy Committee".

(c) **Committee on Public Undertakings:** One of the more effective outcomes of recommendation of Krishna Menon Committee is the establishment of Committee on Public Undertakings .It was set up in 1964 along with 15 members originally. However, in 1974, its membership was raised to 22, in which 15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha. Members of this Committee are elected every year. The Chairman of these Committee is appointed by the Speaker only from the Lok Sabha. The Committee examines the report and accounts of the public undertakings in the context of autonomy and efficiency. It also examines reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. It also examines whether the affairs of public undertakings are being run efficiently and managed in accordance with sound business principles and prudent commercial practices.

Departmental Committees

The Rules Committee of the Lok Sabha recommends for setting up of 17 Department- related Standing Committees which were set up in 1993. Incidentally, the number of Committees was raised into 24 in 2004. List of some important Departmental Standing Committees-

(1) Committee on Commerce
(2) Committee on Home Affairs
(3) Committee on Human Resource Development
(4) Committee on Defence
(5) Committee on External Affairs
(6) Committee on Finance
(7) Committee on Information Technology.

Each committee of Departmental Standing Committee

consists of 31 members in which 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. The tenure of office of the members is one year. The objective of these Committees is to secure accountability of the Executive to the Parliament, basically financial accountability. The function of Departmental Standing Committee is (a) to consider the demands for grants of the concerned ministries before they are discussed and voted in the Lok Sabha; (b) to examine annual reports of Ministries and Department and (c) to consider national basic long-term policy documents presented to the House.

Other Standing Committees in each House is divided in terms of their functions. They are-

Committees to Inquire

Under Committees to Inquire there are three committees. These are -

1. **Committee on Petitions:** This Committee is related to examine petitions on bills and on matters of general public interest and also entertain, representations on matters concerning central subjects. This kind of Committee is formed with 15 members in Lok Sabha and with 10 members in Rajya Sabha.
2. **Committee on Privileges:** The Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges has 15 members and the Rajya Sabha Committee has 10 members. The function of this Committee is to examine any questions of privilege referred to it by both the Houses or the Speaker and the Chairman. On the basis of nature this Committee is Semi-Judicial.
3. **Ethics Committee:** Ethics Committee was formed in Lok Sabha in 2000 and in Rajya Sabha in 1997. This Committee examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action.

Committees to Scrutinize and Control

Under this category various committees are included. Such as-

(1) Committee on Government Assurances
(2) Committee on Subordinate Legislation
(3) Committees on Papers Laid on the Table
(4) Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs
(5) Committee on Empowerment of Women
(6) Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

Committees Relating to the Day to Day Business of the House

There are four committees under this category. These are-

1. Business Advisory Committee
2. Rules Committee
3. Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolution
4. Committee on Absence of Members

House Keeping Committees or Service Committees

Under this category various committees are included. Such as-

(1) General Purpose Committee
(2) House Committee
(3) Library Committee
(4) Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowance of Members.

(ii) **Ad hoc Committees**

It is worth mentioning that without understanding Ad Hoc Committees, the Parliamentary Committee system is incomplete. Ad hoc Committees are divided into two categories, those are-

(a) Inquiry Committees: This Committee is constituted from time to time, either by the two Houses on a motion adopted in that behalf or by the Speaker/ Chairman. Its aim is to inquire into and report on specific subjects to various committees. For instance-

(i) Railway Convention Committee
(ii) Committee On Members Of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.
(iii) Joint Committee On Stock Market Scam.

(b) Advisory Committee: It includes Select or Joint Committees on bills, which are basically appointed to consider and report on specific bills. The Select or Joint Committee examines the bill clause by clause just as the two Houses do.

- **Committee System of the British Parliament**

The committee system is familiar all over the world, because of their activities relating to law making and other functions. Great Britain is not exception to it; for instance Privy Council exercises control over bills. In comparative study, the study of committee system of Great Britain is notable and it can be called as mother of all committee systems in the world.

Initially in Great Britain a Select Committee was to be found in the Journals of the 3rd Parliament of Elizabeth in 1577. It was a landmark beginning for Great Britain, but now object of a committee has undergone a substantial change. In Great Britain the House of Commons and the House of Lords have their own committee system, which are, however, almost similar to each other. Here the committee system of the House of Commons is being discussed-

- **The Committee System of the British House of Commons**

There are six types of Committees of the House of Commons. These are -

1. **The Committee of the Whole House:** It is an important Committee of the House and this Committee consists of all the members of the House of Commons except the Speaker. A Chairman is to be selected for the Committee and he presides over the meetings. The whole procedure of this Committee is simple and flexible.

It is playing a vital role in regards of bills. It examines all matters of appropriation bills, all budgetary proposals, and those of ordinary bills, which the House decides are to be considered by it instead of a Standing or Select Committee. After the completion of discussing its agenda, the committee finalizes its reports and then the Chairman of the Committee submits the

reports to the House. After that the House starts discussions on the recommendations made therein.

2. **Standing Committee:** The Standing Committee of the House of Commons plays a pivotal role to each and every non-money public bills. Most of the non-money bills come to the Standing Committees after the House has approved them in the second reading. Then the Standing Committee has to discuss the details and compulsorily submit their reports to the House.

   Notably, it can be mentioned that unlike the Standing Committee of the US Congress, the Standing Committee of Great Britain cannot kill any bill by non-reporting.

   In Great Britain, under Standing Committee, there are five Standing Committees. Out of these, one Standing Committee is for discussing private members bills and the rest of four discusses non-money government public bills. Each Standing Committee has 20 members nominated by the Committee of Selection.

3. **Select Committee:** The third kind of Committee is Select Committee. This kind of committee came first in Great Britain. Select Committee consists of maximum 15 members nominated by the House and a Chairman is elected by the members of the Committee. The Select Committee in Great Britain is established specially by the House of Commons whenever there is a need for some investigation for law - making on particular matters.

4. **Joint Committee:** Joint Committee is also important for British Parliamentary Committee system. But if we look at the development of Britain Committee system, there was no Joint Committee between 1695 and 1864. The principle of the Joint Committee was received in 1864 and it consists of an equal numbers of members from each House. A peer presides over the meetings of the Joint Committee.

5. **Private Bill Committee:** This kind of Committee is formed to discuss private bills. It is also related to a group of people or an

area sponsored by ordinary people. Each of such Committees consists of 4 members of the House of Commons.

6. **Sessional Committees:** The Sessional Committees consist of several committees which are established by the House of Commons which continue to work during its session. Sessional Committees include committees like - (a) The Estimates Committee, (b) Public Accounts Committee, (c) Committees on Standing Orders and Rules, (d) Committees on Statutory Instrument that is Delegated Legislation, (e) Committee on Privileges, (f) The Committee on Nationalized Industries, (g) Committees on Publication of Debates and , (h) Committee on Selection.

- **Committee System of the US Congress**

The committee system in US is one of the strongest in the world. In legislature, the US Congress carries out its work with the help of several committees. Both the Houses of the US Congress appoint their own committees which help to examine the law-making and other functions systematically. The organization of the committee systems of the two Houses is similar.

Now, we are going to discuss these committees that each House appoints. These are -

1. **Standing Committees:**

In US, the Standing Committee is one of the significant parameter, which performs a notable role in the legislative process. In US Congress these Committees are formed on the regular basis at the beginning of each Congress. Both the Houses of Congress appoints various committees. The House of Representatives appoints 22 Standing Committees and the Senate appoints 15 Standing Committees. The members of these committees are determined and chosen by both the Houses. Each committee has its Chairman and the Chairman is elected by the House but in practice, the senior most member of a committee became the Chairman.

The function of the Standing Committees is very powerful in US. No

bill can be considered by the House until it has been read, examine and reported back by a Committee.

Some noted Standing Committee of the Congress:

(i) Committee on Foreign Relations

(ii) Committee on Education and Labour

(iii) Committee on Armed Services

(iv) Committee on Budget etc

2. **Special Committees:**

In US Special Committee is a temporary committee and it is dissolved after completing the assigned matter. Both the Houses in US appoint Special Committee for any issues or matters. The members of the Special Committee are nominated by the Speaker (in case of House of Representatives) or Chairman (in case of Senate). The main work of this kind of Committee is mostly used as a device for probing and exposing the working of various government departments. Investigation Committee is one of the most suitable examples that each House establishes from time to time to examine the government department.

3. **Joint Committee:**

The Joint Committee is composed of both the members of Senate and the House of Representatives in US. The Committee has its jurisdiction over matters of joint interest.

4. **Committee of the Whole:**

It is the Whole House of the Representative sitting as a Committee. All the members of the House of Representatives can sit in it. But the Speaker does not preside, instead, the House appoints a member to conduct the Committee. The main function of Committee deals with Money bill and other bills.

5. **Joint Conference Committee:**

The Joint Conference Committee is mainly appointed for resolving a disagreement over any bill. Both the Houses participate in this process and usually this Committee consists of senior and prominent members of the two Houses. It consists of minimum three and

maximum nine members. The final decision of the Committee is accepted by the two Houses. Senators play a dominant role in this Committee.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5: Each Standing Committee has 20 members nominated by the Committee of Selection in Great Britain. (True/False)

.....

Q 6: In India Estimate Committees membership was raised to ……..in 1956. (Fill in the Blank)

Q 7: Which kind of Committee did come first in Great Britain?

.....

Q 8: Write a note on Public Accounts Committees of India. (Within 50 words)

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4.5 LET US SUM UP

- Through committees India, Great Britain and the US are systematically doing law-making and other activities.
- The main features of the Indian committee system as it operates are as : term of members, members are allotted from parties through the system of proportional representation, may seek help of outside experts or suggestions of general public, in camera proceedings are held, decision are taken on majority basis.
- Discussion of any non-money bill is placed only in Standing Committees and the functioning of the Select Committees is like

quasi-judicial bodies which are the most important features of Great Britain Committee system.

- The committee system of US Congress is seen very powerful. The Standing Committees are also known as Subject Committees, there are no similarities among the members of each committee.
- In India we see there are broadly two types of Parliamentary Committees- Standing committees and Ad Hoc Committees. Standing Committees are permanent and elected or nominated every year or periodically and their work goes on, more or less on a continuous basis. Standing Committee system includes three Financial Committees- Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, Committee on Public Undertakings
- Total numbers of Departmental Standing Committee is 24. Each Committee of Departmental Standing Committee consists of 31 members in which 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.
- There are two kinds of Ad-Hoc Committees in India. These are: Inquiry Committees and Advisory Committees.
- In Great Britain the House of Commons and the House of Lords have their own committee system, which are, however, almost similar to each other. There are six types of committees of the House of Commons.
- In US Congress Standing committees are formed on the regular basis at the beginning of every Congress. The House of Representatives appoints 22 Standing Committees and the Senate appoints 15 standing committees.



4.6 FURTHER READING

(1) Bhagawan, Vishnoo, and Bhushan, Vidya (2007). *World Constitution*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

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(4) Laxmikanth, M (2016). *Indian Polity*. New Delhi: McGraw Hill Education (India) Private Limited.



4.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Proportional Representation

Ans to Q No 2: Subject Committees

Ans to Q No 3: True

Ans to Q No 4: (i) Members are allotted from parties through the system of proportional representation: the members of committees of India are appointed on the basis of the system of proportional representation from each party. This is considered as important as it brings effectiveness and transparency to the committees.

(ii) Decisions are taken on majority basis: the majority support of the members in making decisions are considered as extreme importance in the committee system of India. It is a process where committees are moving in the right direction.

Ans to Q No 5: True

Ans to Q No 6: 30

Ans to Q No 7: Select Committees

Ans to Q No 8: The Public Accounts Committee was formed in 1921 under the recommendations of Government of India Act 1919.Total members of these Committees is 22 and members are elected by the Parliament from amongst its members for one year term. The main role of the Committee is to examine annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and public expenditure.



4.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: How many types of Parliamentary Committees are there in India?

Q 2: How many Standing Committees are appointed by the House of Representatives?

Q 3: Mention any two kinds of committees of the House of Commons.

Q 4: Mention any two types of Standing Committees of US Congress.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Write a brief note on the features of committee systems of India.

Q 2: Write a brief note on the various committees of the USA.

Q 3: Write a short note on the features of the American committee system.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss committee system in India and Britain.

Q 2: Discuss the features of committee system of India, Great Britain and the United States of America.

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UNIT 5 : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE PRESSURE GROUPS, INTEREST GROUPS AND CAUCUSES OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNIT STRUCTURE

5.1 Learning Objectives

5.2 Introduction

5.3 Features of Pressure Groups and Interest Groups of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

5.4 Classification of Pressure Groups, Interest Groups in India, Great Britain and the United States of America

5.5 Role of Pressure Groups, Interest Groups in India, Great Britain and the United States of America

5.6 Caucuses of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

5.7 Let Us Sum Up

5.8 Further Reading

5.9 Answers To Check Your Progress

5.10 Model Questions

5.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the basic notions of interest groups and pressure groups
- describe some noteworthy features of the pressure and interest groups of India, Great Britain and the United States of America
- describe the various classifications of interest and pressure groups of India ,Great Britain and the United States of America
- discuss the role of pressure or interest groups in India, Great Britain and the USA
- make a comparative analysis of caucuses of India, Great Britain and the United States of America.

5.2 INTRODUCTION

Today the study of pressure groups and interest groups is necessary as there is hardly any country in the world without these groups. Presence of pressure groups and interest groups is one of the important characteristics of any democratic society. In a democratic country these groups act as a mediator between people and the government. These groups create awareness among people and thus make democracy more participatory. In this unit we shall discuss the pressure groups and interest groups of India, Great Britain and the United States of America.

5.3 FEATURES OF PRESSURE GROUPS AND INTEREST GROUPS IN INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The term "pressure group" originated in the United States of America. Any pressure group exercises a profound influence and exerts pressure upon policies and actions of government for promoting their common interest and demands. Prof. S. Finer has characterized these groups as "anonymous empire". Generally they follow methods like lobbying, correspondence, publicity, propaganda, petitioning, public debate, maintaining contacts with their legislators and so on. However, sometimes they also use direct action methods like strikes, violence and corruption which harm public interest.

The two terms "pressure groups" and "interest groups" are often used interchangeably. A group is simply an interest group when the basis of organization of each group is the shared and common interest of its members and they are trying to secure the interest of members. It becomes a pressure group when it exerts pressure upon the government and society as a means for securing its interest. There are subtle differences between the two.

- Interest group is interest-oriented while pressure group is pressure-driven.
- Interest group may or may not influence the policies of the government. Pressure groups, however, certainly influence the policies of the

government.

- Interest group depends on mutual effort and cooperation for securing the interest. Pressure group depends on pressure tactics to accomplish a desired alteration in policies of the government.
- Interest group at any time can start behaving as a pressure group. Pressure group when it ceases to mount pressure on the government, it can work as an interest group.

Thus the difference between them is that of degree and not of kind. If we make a comparative analysis of India, Great Britain and the US, it is seen that the salient features of the pressure groups of all these three countries are almost similar with the interest groups. Both are organized with a common interest and are trying to secure their interest. Most significantly both the groups are not directly engaged in politics but remain active behind the political parties.

- **Features of Pressure Groups and Interest Groups of India**

Pressure Groups and Interest Groups in India have acquired certain peculiar features such as-

- In the working of the pressure groups or interest groups various grounds of religion, caste or region are given utmost importance. All India Rajput Sabha, Jat Organization, Jain Sabha, Brahmin Sabha, Islamic Group etc. are examples of such group that have engaged in the process of protecting their interest.
- Presence of both traditionalism and modernity has been found in the pressure groups or interest groups of India. Very often it is seen that such groups use certain modern techniques like financing of political parties, inducting of favourable persons in the legislatures and executive departments of governments, conducting of cordial relation with the bureaucrats by giving gifts for protecting their interest. The pressure groups or interest groups also employ traditional means of exploiting caste, creed and religion and in their name try to win their co-operation.
- Most of the common methods used by pressure groups or interest

groups involve strikes, *bandh*, fasting etc. They also follow techniques like lobbying and propaganda for securing their interest.

- It is seen that Indian political parties always try to organize their own interest groups. The Congress has created the Youth Congress, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad enjoys the patronage of Bharatiya Janata Party.
- Another feature is that there are several pressure groups or interest groups which either after accomplishing their particular objectives or after passage of time become inactive. Anti-Sati Group and Anti-Dowry Group are examples of such type of groups.

- **Features of Pressure Groups and Interest Groups of Great Britain**

Pressure groups or interest groups actively represent an important part of the political process in Great Britain. Undoubtedly, more citizens are involved in pressure-group activities than those of political parties.

- Every day in Great Britain, the paid officials and members of pressure groups or interest groups are engaged in a wide variety of activities designed to influence the course of government policy.
- In Great Britain pressure groups can represent very specific and narrowly defined interest or concerns. They are concerned to protect or advance the interests of their members. Within the members of pressure or interest groups integrity is seen very high.
- Limited membership to individuals of a particular occupation, career or economic class, and members are motivated by personal interest. This feature of pressure group or interest groups of UK is noteworthy in contemporary times as it is relatively more prevalent feature than the other ones.

- **Features of Pressure Groups and Interest Groups of the United States of America**

Pressure groups or interest groups in the USA operate at national, state and local level offices and organizations, depending upon the cause and notice which put pressure at various levels of American political system. Some of the features of these groups are-

- Pressure groups or interest groups in the US use techniques like

propaganda, public campaign and try to influence prominent citizens of the locality, one or more states of the country to pressurize the government in matters of general welfare.

- In US, the pressure groups or the interest groups act as voluntarily organized free associations which serve political ends. They influence the process of policy formulation and decision making of the government.
- There are large number of federal level pressure groups besides profession, interest oriented small groups. The American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Committee of Manufacturers, and American Medical Association are examples of federal level pressure groups.
- Pressure groups or interest groups in the US may not directly involve themselves in the electoral politics or the process of government formation. In spite of that, political leaders, groups and committees of different political parties attempt to secure their support because they can influence the voters through their direct contacts.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: The term pressure groups originated in …….... (Fill in the blank)

Q 2: Mention the name of any one religion based pressure groups of India?

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Q 3: Write any one technique used by pressure groups in the USA.

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Q 4: Write any two features of pressure groups of India and Great Britain. (within 50 words)

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5.4 CLASSIFICATION OF PRESSURE GROUPS AND INTEREST GROUPS IN INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **Pressure Groups or Interest Groups in India**

The pressure groups of India can be broadly classified in the following categories:

1. **Business Group:** They are the most powerful and the largest of all pressure groups in India. It contains a large number of industrial and commercial bodies such as-
   (a) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
   (b) Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSCHAM)
   (c) Federation of All India Food-grain Dealers Associations (FAIFDA)
2. **Trade Unions:** Thousands of trade unions exist in India. The trade unions are associated either directly or indirectly with different political parties. They are also known as labour groups as they have come to develop for protecting the interest of the workers. Some of the examples are -
   (a) All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)
   (b) Hind Mazdur Sabha (HMS)
   (c) Bharatiya Mazdur Sangh (BMS)
3. **Agrarian Groups:** Agrarian groups represent the farmers and the agricultural labour class. They include-
   (a) Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU)
   (b) All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) (The oldest and the largest agrarian groups)
   (c) Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS)
4. **Professional Associations:** This includes the professional interest groups that pressurize the government by various methods for the improvement of service conditions, their professional and financial interest. They include-

(a) Indian Medical Associations (IMA)
(b) Bar Council of India (BCI)
(c) All India Federation of Universities and College Teachers (AIFUCT)

5. **Religious Organizations:** The multi-religious character of the society has given rise to several religious pressure groups that represent the communal interest. They include-
   (a) Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)
   (b) Vishawa Hindu Parishad (VHP)
   (c) Jamat-i-Islami
6. **Linguistic Groups:** Various interest groups emerge on the basis of language. The language based interest groups try to give prime importance on the development and preservation of their own language. They include-
   (a) Tamil Sangh
   (b) Hindi Sahitya Sammelan
   (c) Andhra Mahasabha
7. **Caste Groups:** Caste plays a major role in Indian politics. Many of the competitive politics in states is nothing but the politics of caste rivalry. They include -
   (a) Nadar Caste Association in Tamil Nadu
   (b) Harijan Sevak Sangh
   (c) Marwari Association
8. **Tribal Organization:** Several interest groups are active in most of the states in India which are involved in their development and identification. They include--
   (a) Tribal Sangh of Assam
   (b) United Mizo Federal Organization
9. **Student Organizations:** Several students groups or organizations are rising as a representative of the student community. They include-
   (a) All Assam Students Union (AASU)
   (b) Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)
   (c) National Students Union of India (NSUI)
10. **Ideology Based Groups:** Nowadays, the pressure groups are found

to follow a particular ideology. It becomes a cause and principle of these groups. These groups are-

(a) Women's Rights Organizations

(b) Democratic Rights Organizations

(c) Environmental Protection Groups like Narmada Bachao Andolon

- **Pressure Groups or Interest Groups in Great Britain**

A large number of interest or pressure groups exist in Great Britain, such as -

1. **Employers' Association:** This type of groups protects the interest of the employers. It includes associations like National Farmers Union, the Institute of Directors, the British Employers Confederation etc.
2. **Business Groups:** Business groups protect and promote the interest of the people associated with business. Examples of business groups are- British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), British Bankers' Associations (BBA), Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Corporate Watch cover the Business groups.
3. **Professional Groups:** The professional groups mainly protect the interest of professional persons. In UK three large professional organizations are often noticed such as the British Medical Associations (BMA), National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the National and Local Government Officers' Association.
4. **Cultural Groups:** These groups protect cultural interest of a particular community. They include British Deaf Association, Welsh Language Society, Yorkshire Ridings Society.
5. **Environmental Groups:** Environmental groups are concerned with the protection and preservation of environment. They include Campaign for Better Transport, Friends of the Earth, the Social Association, Waste Watch etc.
6. **Human Rights-based Pressure Groups:** These groups deal with protection and promotion of human rights of the people. They include Amnesty International, Children Rights Alliance for England (CRAE), Survival International etc.

7. **Public Health Groups:** These types of groups are concerned with the health of the public. It includes groups like Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), Freedom Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST) etc.

- **Pressure Groups or Interest Groups in the United States of America**

Pressure Groups in the USA can be classified into different categories. Such as -

1. **Business Groups:** The increase in federal government activity has led to an increase in business representation in Washington. For instance, the Chambers of Commerce of US, and National Association of Manufacturers.
2. **Trade Unions:** A national trade union centre, the largest federation of unions in the US together constitute fifty seven national and international unions that represent more than eleven million workers. Hence these are powerful interest groups. They include American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).
3. **Agricultural Groups:** The main aim of agricultural group is to develop as well as to build a strong, prosperous American agricultural community. For example, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), and National Farmers Union (NFU).
4. **Single Interest Groups:** It promotes firearm competency, safety and ownership, police training, self defence training, hunting etc. For instance-National Rifle Association (NRA)
5. **Ideological Pressure Groups:** These groups are associated with people of particular ideology and try to protect that particular ideology. It includes organizations like American Conservative Union, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) etc. American Conservative Union is the oldest and the largest conservative organization.
6. **Group Rights Pressure Groups:** Group rights pressure groups like National Organization for Women has raised their voice on certain key issues such as abortion, reproductive health service, violence against women, constitutional equality in the mainstream of the American society.

7. **Public Interest Groups:** These type of groups deal with the interest of the public as a whole. 'Friends of the Earth' is one of the US public Interest groups that takes action for setting up a healthy and pollution free world.

5.5 ROLE OF PRESSURE AND INTEREST GROUPS IN INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Today in most of the countries around the globe the pressure or interest group exercises its influence for bringing about change in socio-political scenario. They play a crucial role for promoting their common interest and exert pressure upon the government. Thereby they attempt to bring change in the public policy. Thus the pressure or interest group provides fuel in the process of social transformation and social development. They also contribute in creating awareness amongst the common masses regarding the government policy or agenda. The role of pressure group is significant as they observe the function of the ruling party so that the ruling party has to act with great commitment.

Reference can be made to that of India where numerous pressure or interest groups raise their demands as well as protest against state. For instance we can say about Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), KMSS which have been playing protesting role against the state for its decision to construct big river dams in the country. Likewise in Great Britain it is seen that pressure groups have taken necessary initiative to fulfil their definite and determinate goals. As an example we can say about group like "Save Lewisham Hospital" which has raised voice to stop Lewisham Hospital from closing down .This has been regarded as a strong example of the strength of pressure groups as this has attained success in this regard. Like India and Great Britain, in US also several pressure or interest groups are playing active role on various issues. For example groups like Friends of the Earth plays role for setting up an air pollution free environment, group like National Organization for Women are working for equal partnership with men, equal privileges and so on.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5: Mention name of any one pressure group in the USA.

.....

Q 6: British Chambers of Commerce is a ..... groups. (Fill in the blank)

Q 7: Trade Unions are also known as ..... in India. (Fill in the blank)

Q 8: Write a short note on the role of pressure groups in India and the UK. (within 50 words)

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5.6 CAUCUSES OF INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The word Caucus originated in Boston in the United States of America in the early period of the 18th century, when it was used as a name of a political club, the Caucus or Caucus club. Mainly the club or Caucus emphasised on organizing public discussion and the election of candidates for any public office. On the other hand an article in Great Leaders and National Issues of 1896, surveying famous presidential campaigns of the past and found inception and roots of the caucus:

The presidential nominating convention is a modern institution. In the early days of the Republic a very different method was pursued in order to place the candidates for the highest office in the land before the people. In the first place, as to the origin of the 'caucus'. In the early part of the eighteenth century a number of caulkers connected with the shipping business in the North End of Boston held a meeting for consultation. That meeting was the germ of the political caucuses which have formed so prominent a feature of our government ever since its organization.

According to Oxford Dictionary the Caucus is a meeting at which

local members of a political party register their preference among candidates running for office or select delegates to attend a convention.

- **Caucus in the United States of America:**

  Caucus in US implies a faction within a legislative body that makes an attempt to promote their interests by influencing either party policy on proposed legislation or legislative offices, such as the Black Caucus (representing African Americans) and the Women's Caucus.

  There was no provision for the role of political parties in the United States and in the first two Presidential elections, the Electoral College handled nominations and elections in 1789 and 1792 which selected George Washington. After that, the party's Presidential candidates were selected by Congressional party or a state legislature party caucus. It is notable that nationally, these caucuses were replaced by the party convention starting in 1832.

  Most importantly some states frequently used the term caucus such as Lowa Caucus, Presidential Election Cycle, and the Texas Caucus to discuss the procedures, to select Presidential nominees etc. since 1980s such caucuses have become an important component of the nomination process.

  - **Congressional Caucus:** In Congress and many state legislatures, Democratic and Republican members organize themselves into a caucus or conference. There can be smaller caucuses in a legislative body which include those that are multi-partisan or even bicameral. Congressional Black Caucus, a group of African-American members of Congress is considered as one of the best known caucuses Congressional caucuses. Another example is the Congressional Hispanic Caucus which plays a prominent role to promote the growth and advancement of the internet security. On the other, 'Out of Iraq Caucus' which thrives to achieve political goals and so on.

- **Caucus in Great Britain:**

  In Great Britain, the term caucus is widely used in 1878.The term came into effect when Joseph Chamberlain and Frank Schnadhorst organized the Liberal Association of Birmingham on strict disciplinary lines, for the purpose of managing elections and controlling voters. This

type of organization became the model for other Liberal Party associations throughout the country.

The term "caucus" is not often used in contemporary Great Britain politics. The usual term is generally known as Parliamentary Party. However, the word "caucus" had a wide familiar in the UK in the late 19th century. Originally a pejorative term (with overtones of corrupt American practices) used by detractors of the system, the name was soon adopted by the Liberals themselves. It is to be noted that the system had originated at a local level in Birmingham. William Harris, the father of the Caucus provides an important contribution to the evolution of this system. The term caucus was referred by the newspaper The Times as "the Caucus with all its evils". Moisey Ostrogorsky devoted some nine chapters of his Democracy and the Organization of Political Parties (1902) to discuss the development and operation of the "Caucus"

It is to be mentioned here that Caucus system has not been practised widely in India. However, if we analyse a comparative study of India, Great Britain and USA, it is seen that some of the characters of Caucus system of USA and UK are found in India. As such the shadow of Caucus system is noticed during the formation of Lok Sabha when the ruling party chooses its leader that is Prime Minister, and when opposition party chooses its leader.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 9: Who is called as the father of Caucus system?

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Q 10: Mention the name of any one Congressional Caucus.

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Q 11: Make a short note on Congressional Caucus.

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5.7 LET US SUM UP

- The term "Pressure Group" was originated in the United States of America. It exercises a profound influence and pressurizes upon policies and actions of government for promoting their common interest and demands.
- The pressure or interest group provides fuel in the process of social transformation and social development. They also contribute in generating awareness amongst the common masses regarding the government policy or agenda. Pressure or interest group exercises its influence for bringing about change in socio-political scenario in India, Great Britain and the US.
- The pressure groups of India can be broadly classified in the various categories. These are Business groups, Trade groups, Farmer groups, Professional groups, Caste groups, Students groups and so on.
- Most of the common methods used by pressure groups in India involve strikes, bandh, fasting etc. They also follow techniques like lobbying and propaganda for securing their interest.
- Pressure groups or interest groups actively represent an important part of the political process in Great Britain. In UK there are various types of pressure or interest groups, such as- Employers' Association, Business Groups, Professional Groups, Cultural Groups, Environmental Groups, Human Rights-based Pressure Groups, Public Health Groups etc.
- In USA also several pressure or interest groups are playing active role on various issues. For example groups like Friends of the Earth plays role for setting up an air pollution-free environment, group like National Organization for Women are working for equal partnership with men, equal privileges and so on.
- The word Caucus originated in Boston in the United States of America

in the early period of the 18th Century, when it was used as the name of a political club, the Caucus or Caucus club.

- Caucus in USA implies a faction within a legislative body that attempts to promote their interests by influencing either party policy on proposed legislation or legislative offices such as Black Caucus.



5.8 FURTHER READING

1) Bhagawan, Vishnoo and Bhushan, Vidya. (2007). *World Constitutions*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

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5.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: United States of America

Ans to Q No 2: Jat Organization

Ans to Q No 3: Public Campaign

Ans to Q No 4: Features of Pressure Groups in India–

(a) In the working of the pressure groups or interest group various grounds of religion , caste or region are given utmost importance.

(b) Another feature is that there are several pressure groups or interest groups which either after accomplishing their particular objectives or after passage of time, become inactive.

Features of Pressure Groups in Great Britain -

(a) Pressure groups actively represent an important part of the political process in Great Britain; certainly, more citizens are involved in pressure-

group activity than political parties.

(b) In Great Britain pressure group can represent very specific and narrowly defined interest or concerns.

Ans to Q No 5: The Chambers of Commerce of America

Ans to Q No 6: Business Group

Ans to Q No 7: Labour Group

Ans to Q No 8: Pressure groups plays a crucial role in most of the countries around the globe. It provides fuel in the process of social transformation and social development. They exert pressure upon the government for bringing about change in public policy. If we look at India it is seen that in India groups like Narmada Bachao Andolan, KMSS have played active role by protesting against state for construction of big river dams. Reference can be made to that of UK also where groups like "Save Lewisham Hospital" has raised voice to stop Lewisham hospital from closing down. This has been regarded as a strong example of the strength of the role of pressure groups.

Ans to Q No 9: William Harris

Ans to Q No 10: Congressional Black Caucus

Ans to Q No 11: In Congress and many state legislatures, Democratic and Republican members organise themselves in to a Caucus or Conference. The Congressional Black Caucus, a group of African-American members of Congress is considered as one of the best known Caucus of the many Congressional caucuses. There is also some prominent example of Congressional Caucus such as Out of Iraq Caucus which thrives to achieve political goals.



5.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: Who has characterized pressure groups as "anonymous empire"?

Q 2: Mention any two methods of pressure and interest groups in India.

Q 3: Mention any one agricultural pressure group in the USA.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Write a brief note on features of pressure groups in the United States of America.

Q 2: Write a short note on the role of pressure groups with special reference to India, Great Britain and the United States of America.

Q 3: Write a note on caucuses of Great Britain and India.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: What is pressure group? Do you find any differences between pressure and interest groups? Write about various features of interest groups in India.

Q 2: Discuss the various classifications of pressure groups in UK and US.

Q 3: Explain the various kinds of pressure groups in India.

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