

PS505 — Politics and Government of Nepal

Internal Assessment, First Semester 2026 — Model Answers

Master's Programme in Political Science, Tribhuvan University / Active Academy College

GROUP A (15 marks each)

Q1. Four fundamental political changes in Nepal achieved from the People's Movement of 2062/63

The People's Movement of 2062/63 BS (Jana Andolan II, April 2006) was a 19-day, broad-based mass uprising against King Gyanendra's autocratic direct rule, which he had imposed on 1 February 2005. The movement united the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and the CPN (Maoist) — who had earlier been at war with the state — on the basis of the 12-Point Understanding reached in November 2005. On 24 April 2006 (11 Baisakh 2063), the King was forced to reinstate the dissolved House of Representatives, and the country entered a fundamentally new political order. The four most fundamental changes are discussed below.

1. Abolition of monarchy and establishment of a republic. This was the most decisive structural change. The reinstated House of Representatives first stripped the King of his powers and brought the army under civilian control (May 2006). The Interim Constitution of 2007 turned the monarch into a figurehead, and finally, on 28 May 2008, the first meeting of the elected Constituent Assembly abolished the 240-year-old Shah monarchy and declared Nepal a **Federal Democratic Republic**. Sovereignty was formally transferred from the crown to the people, ending centuries of monarchical rule.

2. End of the armed conflict through the peace process. The movement created the political space to end the decade-long (1996–2006) Maoist insurgency, which had cost an estimated 13,000–17,000 lives. The **Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA)** was signed on 21 November 2006, formally ending the war. The Maoists laid down arms under UN supervision, their combatants were cantoned and later integrated/rehabilitated, and the party joined competitive multiparty politics. This transformed an armed rebellion into a mainstream political force.

3. Declaration of a secular state. Nepal had been the world's only constitutionally Hindu kingdom. The reinstated parliament declared the state **secular** in 2006, and this was enshrined in the Interim Constitution (2007) and the Constitution of Nepal (2015). This was a fundamental redefinition of national identity, separating state authority from a single state religion and recognising Nepal's religious diversity.

4. State restructuring through federalism, inclusion and a Constituent Assembly.

The movement replaced the centralised unitary state with the principle of **federal restructuring** (eventually seven provinces) and committed the country to **inclusion and proportional representation** of historically marginalised groups — Dalits, Janajatis, Madhesis and women. Crucially, the people for the first time gained the right to write their own constitution through an **elected Constituent Assembly**, rather than receiving one "granted" from above.

Conclusion: Jana Andolan II thus produced a republican, secular, federal and inclusive Nepal and ended a violent civil war — together amounting to the most comprehensive political transformation in the country's modern history.

Q2. Define separation of powers and the provisions in the Constitution of Nepal regarding balance of power

Definition. Separation of powers is a constitutional principle, most famously articulated by the French thinker **Montesquieu** in *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748), which holds that the three core functions of the state — **legislative** (law-making), **executive** (law-enforcing) and **judicial** (law-interpreting) — should be vested in separate organs and exercised by different persons. Its purpose is to prevent the concentration of power in any single authority, to guard against tyranny, and to protect liberty. In practice it is accompanied by a system of **checks and balances**, in which each organ can limit the others.

Provisions in the Constitution of Nepal, 2015 (2072 BS). Nepal follows a **parliamentary system**, so it does not adopt a rigid separation between the legislature and executive; instead it maintains a separation of functions with strong checks and an independent judiciary.

Legislature (Part 8): The Federal Parliament is **bicameral** — the **House of Representatives** (275 members) and the **National Assembly** (59 members). It makes federal laws, controls finance, and oversees the executive. Provincial assemblies legislate at the provincial level.

Executive (Part 7): Executive power is vested in the **Council of Ministers** headed by the **Prime Minister** (Article 75). The **President** is the constitutional head of state with a largely ceremonial role and acts on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

Judiciary (Part 11): An **independent judiciary** consists of the **Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts**. The Supreme Court holds the power of **judicial review** and a **Constitutional Bench** adjudicates constitutional disputes.

Mechanisms maintaining balance of power:

- The House of Representatives can remove the Prime Minister through a **vote of no confidence** (Article 100).
- The judiciary can declare laws or executive actions **unconstitutional** (judicial review), checking both other organs.
- **Impeachment** by Parliament applies to the President, judges of the Supreme Court, and heads of constitutional bodies (Article 101), making them accountable.
- Independent **Constitutional bodies** (e.g., CIAA, Election Commission, Auditor General) check abuse of power.
- The **Judicial Council** and **Constitutional Council** regulate appointments to ensure they are not monopolised by one organ.

Conclusion: The Constitution of Nepal does not implement an absolute separation of powers but rather a workable balance — fusing legislature and executive in the parliamentary tradition while firmly protecting judicial independence and embedding multiple checks to prevent the abuse of authority.

Q3. Five key challenges faced by major political parties in the current political system of Nepal (with justification)

Nepal's major parties — the Nepali Congress (NC), CPN-UML, and CPN (Maoist Centre) — together with newer forces face several serious challenges.

1. Factionalism and party splits. Intra-party power struggles repeatedly fracture the major parties. The UML split (formation of the CPN–Unified Socialist), the breakups within the Maoist movement, and recurring NC factional contests show that personal rivalries often override organisational unity. *Justification:* this drains parties of energy, weakens governments, and reduces their ability to deliver consistent policy.

2. Weak intra-party democracy and gerontocracy. The same senior leaders have

dominated for decades, limiting leadership renewal and sidelining youth. *Justification:* decisions concentrate in a small circle; rank-and-file members and capable young leaders feel excluded, eroding the parties' legitimacy as democratic organisations.

3. Corruption and poor governance. Frequent corruption scandals and perceptions of patronage have badly damaged public trust. *Justification:* when parties are seen as instruments for personal gain rather than public service, their moral authority and electoral base shrink.

4. Failure to deliver development and political instability. Repeated changes of government and unstable coalitions have prevented sustained development, even after the 2015 Constitution promised stability. *Justification:* citizens judge parties by results — unemployment, mass youth out-migration, and slow service delivery have produced deep disillusionment.

5. Rise of alternative forces and loss of credibility. The emergence of independents (e.g., Balen Shah as Mayor of Kathmandu) and new parties such as the Rastriya Swatantra Party reflects a flight of voters — especially the young and urban — away from established parties. *Justification:* this signals that traditional parties are losing their monopoly over political loyalty and must reform or risk decline.

Conclusion: Factionalism, weak internal democracy, corruption, instability and the rise of alternatives are interlinked challenges. Unless the major parties reform their internal culture and improve delivery, their dominance in Nepal's political system will continue to weaken.

GROUP B (5 marks each)

Q4. Three emerging trends in contemporary Nepali politics (with examples)

1. Rise of independents and new parties. Voters increasingly support candidates outside traditional parties. *Example:* Balen Shah won the Kathmandu mayoralty (2022) as an independent, Harka Sampang won in Dharan, and the Rastriya Swatantra Party emerged rapidly as a national force.

2. Social-media-driven, youth-led politics. Campaigns and political opinion increasingly form on Facebook, TikTok and YouTube, mobilising young, urban voters and bypassing party machinery.

3. Anti-establishment sentiment. Disillusionment with the NC, UML and Maoists over corruption and unmet promises has produced strong “throw the old guard out” feeling, fuelling protest votes and even periodic pro-monarchy/Hindu-state demonstrations.

Q5. Positive changes brought about by the Maoist armed conflict in Nepal

Although the 1996–2006 conflict was devastating in human cost, it also catalysed several lasting changes:

- It accelerated the **end of the monarchy** and the establishment of a **republic**.
- It pushed **federalism and state restructuring** onto the national agenda.
- It dramatically raised the political **consciousness of marginalised groups** — Dalits, Janajatis, Madhesis and women — and forced their concerns into mainstream politics.
- It advanced **women’s empowerment**, as women participated in large numbers (including as combatants) and later in politics.
- It contributed to **secularism** and to constitutional commitments on **inclusion and proportional representation**.

In short, the conflict broke long-standing feudal and exclusionary structures and helped reshape Nepal into a more inclusive republic.

Q6. What should be done to keep the judiciary of Nepal independent and impartial?

- **Merit-based, transparent appointments:** reform the Judicial Council and Parliamentary Hearing so judges are chosen on competence, not political sharing (*bhagbanda*).
- **Security of tenure and service:** protect judges from arbitrary removal so they decide without fear.
- **Financial autonomy:** guarantee the judiciary’s budget so it does not depend on executive goodwill.
- **De-politicisation:** insulate the courts from interference by political parties, the

executive and the legislature.

- **Internal accountability:** enforce a strict code of conduct and act firmly against corruption within the judiciary to maintain public confidence.

A judiciary that is appointed fairly, funded independently, and held to high ethical standards is the foundation of impartial justice and the rule of law.

Q7. The process of formation of the federal legislature

The **Federal Parliament** of Nepal is **bicameral**, comprising:

House of Representatives (Pratinidhi Sabha) — 275 members, 5-year term.

- **165** elected directly by citizens through the **First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)** system in single-member constituencies.
- **110** elected through the **Proportional Representation (PR)** system, where parties win seats in proportion to their national vote share and select members from closed inclusive lists.

National Assembly (Rastriya Sabha) — 59 members, permanent house, 6-year term (one-third retiring every two years).

- **56** elected by an **electoral college** of provincial assembly members and chiefs/deputy-chiefs of local governments — **8 from each of the 7 provinces**, with reserved seats ensuring representation of women, Dalits and persons with disabilities/minorities.
- **3 nominated** by the President on the recommendation of the Government (including at least one woman).

Together these two houses constitute the federal legislature responsible for making federal laws.

Q8. What is a political party? Why are common Nepalis dissatisfied?

Definition. A political party is an organised group of people who share a common ideology and political goals and who seek to gain and exercise state power through legitimate, mainly electoral, means in order to shape government and public policy.

Reasons for the dissatisfaction of common Nepalis:

- Widespread **corruption** and abuse of office.
- **Unfulfilled promises** and weak public service delivery.
- Chronic **political instability** and frequent changes of government.
- **Nepotism and favouritism** in appointments and contracts.
- **Economic hardship** — unemployment and large-scale youth migration abroad.
- A sense that the **same recycled leaders** monopolise power without accountability.

These together have produced deep public frustration with the established parties.

Q9. Qualities of good political leadership

- **Vision and clear ideology** — a sense of direction for the nation.
- **Integrity and honesty** — leading by example and resisting corruption.
- **Accountability and transparency** — answerability to the people.
- **Competence and knowledge** — sound understanding of policy and governance.
- **Decisiveness and courage** — taking timely, firm decisions.
- **Communication skills** — explaining and persuading effectively.
- **Inclusiveness and tolerance** — respecting diversity and dissent.
- **Commitment to public welfare** — placing national interest above personal gain.
- **Respect for democratic values and the rule of law.**

Good leadership combines these qualities to build trust and guide the country effectively.

Q10. Role of political parties in the institutionalization of democracy

- **Interest aggregation and articulation:** parties gather diverse public demands and translate them into coherent programmes.

- **Political socialisation and education:** they inform citizens about issues, rights and the political process.
- **Leadership recruitment:** they identify, train and promote leaders for public office.
- **Forming government and opposition:** the winning party governs while others form a constructive opposition that checks power.
- **Linking citizens and the state:** parties act as a bridge between society and government institutions.
- **Ensuring peaceful transfer of power:** through elections, parties enable orderly, non-violent changes of government.
- **Promoting accountability and stability:** competition among parties keeps governments responsive.

By performing these functions consistently, political parties turn democracy from a one-time event into a stable, lasting institution.

Q11. Functions of the Public Service Commission (Lok Sewa Aayog)

The Public Service Commission is a constitutional body (Articles 242–243 of the Constitution of Nepal, 2015). Its main functions are:

- **Conducting examinations** to select candidates for appointment to the **civil service** (and other services as provided by law).
- **Recommending candidates** for appointment to civil service posts based on merit.
- Being **consulted on the laws** relating to the conditions of service of the civil service.
- Being **consulted on the general principles** to be followed in **appointment, promotion and departmental action** of civil servants.
- Being **consulted on appointment, transfer or promotion** of a civil servant to a post for **more than six months**, and on **departmental punishment**.
- Conducting examinations for permanent posts in various government and public organised institutions as specified by law.

In essence, the Commission ensures **fair, merit-based and impartial recruitment** to

the civil service, upholding the principle of a professional and politically neutral bureaucracy.

Prepared as model answers for study purposes. Where the question asks for "current" or "emerging" matters, verify against the latest developments, as Nepal's politics evolves rapidly.