Polity & Governance · GS - II

Coalition politics can promote political representation but may also complicate governance. Analyse this dual role in parliamentary democracies.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 25/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Coalition government, representative democracy, regional parties, collective responsibility, policy consensus, political stability, coalition coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

Coalition governments emerge when multiple political parties cooperate to secure legislative majority support. They are particularly significant in fragmented party systems, where no single party commands sufficient seats to govern independently.

Democratic and Governance Advantages

1. **Broader representation:** Coalition arrangements accommodate regional, linguistic, ideological and social interests that may otherwise remain underrepresented.

2. **Consensus-based policymaking:** Negotiations among coalition partners can encourage consultation, moderation and compromise in policy formulation.

3. **Federal accommodation:** Regional parties can bring state-specific concerns into national decision-making, strengthening democratic decentralisation.

4. **Legislative support:** A negotiated common programme can provide a broader political foundation for government policies.

Governance Challenges

1. **Policy disagreements:** Differences among coalition partners may delay reforms and weaken consistency in decision-making.

2. **Political instability:** Withdrawal of support by important partners can threaten the government's legislative majority.

3. **Compromise-driven decisions:** Excessive bargaining over ministerial positions and policy concessions may dilute administrative priorities.

4. **Accountability concerns:** Coalition partners may shift responsibility for unpopular decisions, complicating political accountability.

Measures for Effective Coalition Governance

1. Establish a clearly defined common minimum programme.
2. Create formal coordination committees to resolve disagreements.
3. Maintain collective responsibility and transparency in decision-making.
4. Prioritise institutional stability over short-term political bargaining.

Conclusion

Coalition politics is not inherently a weakness of parliamentary democracy. Its effectiveness depends on the ability of political parties to reconcile competing interests through institutionalised negotiation, accountability and policy consensus.

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