

Name _____

Political Parties: Shaping the Future of Government

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Political parties are considered fundamental in a democratic government because they represent citizens, provide choices in elections, develop policies, and contribute to a system of checks and balances.
2. Challenges political parties might face include balancing the diverse views of their members, addressing conflicts, and adapting to changing societal needs.
3. "Checks and balances" refers to a system where different branches of government have separate powers, preventing any one branch from gaining too much authority. Political parties contribute by holding power accountable in various branches.
4. Third parties or independent candidates can introduce new ideas and perspectives into politics, but they often face challenges in gaining widespread support due to the dominance of major parties.

