Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine how proportional representation influences coalition politics and government stability in parliamentary democracies. Discuss the institutional challenges arising from fragmented legislatures and competing political interests.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Electoral system, proportional representation, multiparty competition, coalition formation, parliamentary confidence, political bargaining, government stability, policy continuity, representation versus governability, institutional safeguards.

Model Answer

Introduction

Proportional representation seeks to translate parties' electoral support into legislative representation. Although it promotes political inclusiveness, it can produce fragmented legislatures in which coalition-building becomes necessary for government formation.

Influence on Coalition Politics

- **Broader representation:** Smaller parties and diverse social interests gain opportunities for legislative representation.
- **Coalition bargaining:** Parties negotiate common programmes, ministerial responsibilities and policy priorities to secure a governing majority.

- **Policy compromises:** Coalition governments often require consensus, potentially moderating extreme positions.
- **Government instability:** Ideological differences and competing demands may lead to withdrawal of support and political deadlock.

Institutional Challenges

Frequent coalition disputes can delay legislation, weaken policy continuity and complicate crisis management. Smaller coalition partners may exercise substantial bargaining influence, while repeated elections can increase administrative and fiscal uncertainty.

Way Forward

Clear coalition agreements, transparent legislative procedures, constructive parliamentary debate and effective committee systems can improve accountability. Constitutional mechanisms should facilitate government formation while preserving parliamentary confidence and democratic representation.

Conclusion

Coalition politics reflects the diversity of democratic societies. Institutional stability depends on balancing inclusive representation with effective governance and legislative accountability.

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