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Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 5

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

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Test Submission Date: 17/Nov/22

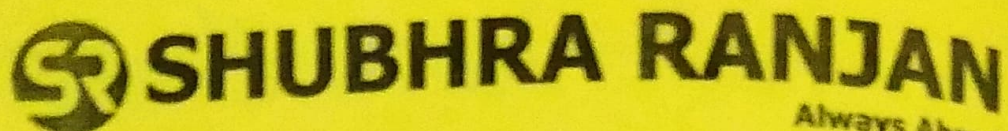
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Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. All questions are for **15 marks** each.
3. Word limit for each question is **200 words**.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

Q. No.	Marks	Q. No.	Marks
Q1		Q5	
Q2		Q6	
Q3		Q7	
Q4		Q8	
Total Marks:		Evaluator Code:	

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Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,

This image shows a single sheet of bright yellow paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



ue.1

What are human rights? Is there any hierarchy of human rights? Explain the relationship between the protection of human rights and sustainable development goals. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Human Rights are those basic minimum standards such as liberty, dignity, which aims at protecting individuals' dignity. They recognise value of every person and thus they are protected by international community.

The origin of human Rights can be traced to WWII. After horrific killings of Jews, it was realised that state's sovereignty has to be diluted to protect human rights and international community has to step in to protect minorities & prevent totalitarianism.

Human Rights are universal in nature. They are based on Kant's idea of inviolability of human dignity. They promote equality. They are inalienable.



and fundamental for human's Right to live with dignity. Rights are individualistic. Since, they are available to all and all rights are equally important for human, there can't be any hierarchy of human Rights.

Sustainable Dev. Goals were adopted by UN General Assembly in 2015 to attain 'a world of peace and harmony'. They are certain goals to be achieved by 2030. The basic theme behind SDGs was to promote inclusive and sustainable development for all.

Human Rights are at the core of SDGs. Every SDGs are linked to protection and promotion of human rights. SDG 1 aims at ending poverty, SDG 2



at tackling hunger. Similarly other goals aim at providing education, better livelihood, protecting environment. These are ~~essential~~ conditions to create enabling environment where human can live with dignity.

Human rights remain contested on many fronts. Eg - Recent Iran protest where protesters are getting killed. International community is failing to protect HR, yet these are the ideals towards which we should be moving.



Que.2

How the term equality differs from equity? Discuss the various forms of equality and their relevance. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Equality is a new concept in normative political theory. Historically - inequalities in status, opportunities are treated as natural and desirable, justified by Great philosophers like Plato & Aristotle. Equality can be simply understood in terms of dignity. It aims to give equal status and opportunities to all to develop their capabilities and virtues. It recognise equality of all humans in terms of dignity.

Equity can be said as a step forward in liberal's discourse of Equality of status and opportunities. It provides for equal level playing field and distribution of resources acc. to



individual's need or ability.

Equality has been interpreted by diff school of thought in different ways.

Liberals have priority of liberty over equality. They promote equality in moral sense i.e. equal status to all. They also provide Equality of opportunities w/o any discrimination.

Marxist criticise liberal view as mere formal and procedural. They promote socio-eco. equality and not just civil-pol. equality. They provide Equality of outcomes or Absolute equality.

Social liberals like Rawls, Amartya Sen, T.H. Green, favor 'Fair Equality of oppor.' and positive discrimination in favor of backward sections.



Scholars of Multiculturalism vote for cultural specific rights and differentiated equality. Feminist like Iris Marion Young also go for differentiated equality.

All these concepts of equality are interrelated and complementary. As the time moves, we evolve equality to make it more substantive. States should strive for providing as many of these rights as possible.



ue.3

Rawls's theory of justice consists of certain distributive principles for the basic structure of society. In light of this statement, critically evaluate Rawls's theory of justice as fairness. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Rawls is a modern political philosopher, his status in modern pol.sc. is at par with Plato. He is credited for revival of pol.sc. with publishing of his book 'A theory of JUSTICE' in 1960s. 60s was decade of social movements in USA due to inequalities. Behavioral failed to provide solution. There comes Rawls Theory whose focus was how to minimise inequalities and how to balance equality and liberty.

Rawls' concern was how to distribute 'primary social goods' in the society to do justice with everyone. He was not in agreement with utilitarian approach which compromise human dignity. His aim was to give universal and 'purely procedural' theory of Justice.



He use a hypothetical device, where he put rational humans behind 'veil of ignorance' to put them into original position. These individuals are not biased because they don't know certain facts about them. The principles they arrived at are —

- 1) Maximum Equal liberty for all.
- 2) Equality of opportunity
- 3) Inequalities should be arranged in such manner, they are most advantageous to least advantaged.

These principles are in lexical order means liberty preferred over Eq. of oppor. and Eq. of oppor. over dignity. Rawls believe that they are most rational principles and can be applied universally.

Rawls' main criticism comes from communitarian thinkers — Michael Sander, Walzer.



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They criticise Rawls's 'atomistic man' negotiating in 'abstract conditions.' Man is embedded in his culture, so he can't be put in original position. value pluralist like Berlin and even Amartya Sen also criticise Rawls for giving lexical order of preference. Dworkin & Sen give Eq. of resources & Eq. of capabilities approach. Feminist & Marxist also criticise Rawls for biasness.

Rawls addressed communitarian critique in his book 'Political liberalism'. Despite criticisms, Rawls's theory paved way for revival of pol. philosophy. As Clinton said "Rawls is the greatest philosopher of 20th century."



Que.4

The policy of affirmative action aims at the politics of inclusion. Explain with reference to India's journey towards building an egalitarian society. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Affirmative Action refers to the policy of positive discrimination in favour of historically disadvantaged sections of society. It was realised that mere equality of opportunity and status is not enough to ensure human dignity. Scholars of Social Egalitarian school (Sen, Rawls) favour affirmative actions to certain sections which are socially stigmatised and discriminated like Blacks in USA & Dalits in India.

Affirmative actions aims at enabling disadvantaged sections to compete with others in equal level playing field. They also aim to rectify



past injustices met to these sections. These actions are needed to protect these segments from marginalisation and deprivation and to give them a life of equal dignity. The policy aims at inclusive and just society.

In India, our constitution makers firmly supported the idea of affirmative action to protect historically, socially and economically disadvantaged sections like Dalits (SC), ST and to ensure meaningful realisation of human rights. In this sense, Our Constitution is a revolutionary document aim at bringing social revolution in the nation. Many provisions of our constitution aims at promoting an egalitarian society -



Preamble enshrine value of equality liberty and justice to all.

A-15 and 16 allows State to make special provisions for socio-economically backward classes to promote their welfare.

DPSPs in A-44 also mention that State should aim at uplifting the status of weaker sections.

Reservation of seats in Parliament & state legislature as well as local level for SC & ST, in public employment & educational institutes.

Government schemes also aim at minimising inequalities and promoting egalitarian society.

Affirmative action is not an end, it's a means to promote an inclusive and equitable society.



Que.5

Dworkin's theory of equality is not limited to the realm of abstract theoritization, but aims at harmonizing the principles with concrete practices. Critically evaluate. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Equality is the central concern in Normative pol. theory. Equality paves way for a just society and just state.

The social movements against inequalities (Black Rights) aims at ensuring equality of all. Thus, many thinkers have dealt with equality. This makes equality a contested idea.

Dworkin's theory came in context of libertarian (Nozick) and Marxist (Wen) critic of Rawls' Theory of Justice. He accommodated concerns of both and tried to rectify issue of Rawls' Theory.

He proposed 'Luck Egalitarianism' and 'ambition sensitive Auction'. He said



that people should be held responsible for choices they make in 'chosen circumstances' - Option luck. But we should compensate for Brute luck, such as natural disabilities of a person.

He proposed 'Ambition Sensitive' auction so that everyone participate with equal resources. He aims to make initial distribution fair. Thus, he proposed 'Envy test' - no one should be envious of other's resources.

With Ambition sensitive, he proposes 'Endowment Insensitive auction' and 'insurance' to keep resources for brute luck compensation.

Thus, he proposed Equality of Resources at initial level, no need to compensate again and again.



Elizabeth criticise Dworkin for difficulties in differentiating between 'Brute luck' and 'Bad choices'. A person is compensated for brute luck but not bad choices.

Amartya Sen criticise Eq. of Resources, as it's not enough to ensure dignity of all. We need to develop capabilities to use these resources. Thus he gives 'realisation focused' Capability approach

Dworkin could rectify Rawls and provide for compensating natural disabilities. Now the need is to compensate for social disabilities as well, as suggested by Amartya Sen.



Que.6

Right is simply not reducible to a goal or a policy. In light of the statement explain Dworkin's view that rights are trump. (200 words, 15 Marks)

"Rights are those conditions without which no one can seek to be at their best" — Laski

Rights are those claims of individuals which are recognised by society and enforced by state, as suggested by Basanquet. Dworkin also viewed rights as Trumps, necessary for ensuring human dignity.

Dworkin considered rights as fundamental conditions, which can't be compromised or sacrificed in any case. This is his criticism of utilitarian, who can sacrifice rights of some for Greatest happiness of Greatest number. Dworkin is against this view and continue



with the Kantian Tradition of human dignity as inviolable and inalienable.

He categorised rights into 2 types -

1) Strong Rights - These are the rights which are essential/fundamental for dignified life of individuals. They are 'sacrosanct' and can't be violated. If they are compromised, they lose their essence of being 'Trumps'.

2) Weak Rights - They are moral ideals and aspirations, needed to achieve more substantial & meaningful realisation of rights but they're not enforced.

State should protect 'fundamental' rights of citizens in any case.



He also advice to legal authorities and lawyers to uphold rights above public good. This reflect liberal tradition of 'Rights are prior to good'. Lawyers should choose 'principles' (rights) over rules. Their aim should be to uphold rights of individuals.

Thus, Rights are like Trumps, which citizens can use against arbitrary intervention of State. But they also come with duty to respect other's rights. As Laski said,

'Rights are claims not devoid of duty.'



Que. 7

Amartya Sen's capability approach is a moral framework. Discuss.
(200 words, 15 Marks)

Amartya Sen in his books 'Inequalities reexamined' & 'The idea of Justice', has presented his Capability approach.

Capability is defined by Sen, as the ability to perform some functions.

He described his approach as 'Realisation focused' approach which aims at minimising injustices rather than excessively focussing on explaining what is Justice.

He is inspired by Indian teachings in Buddhism and Geeta. Buddhism focusses on minimising sufferings. Geeta tells about both Niti & Nyaya (Realisation focussed). Through example of Krishna (deontological) & Arjun (consequential)



he tells that consequentialism is not wrong, the goal should be to minimise injustices.

He criticised Rawl's theory because of excessive focus on 'universalism'. Sen is value pluralist. He also criticise Dworkin, and said that Equality of Resources is not enough, we have to focus on developing 'Functionality'. Thus, his theory is 'Functional Theory of Justice'

Sen major argument is that public policy should make people equal in their capabilities, so that they can realise their potential meaningfully.

He defines Development as 'Freedom' - freedom to make choices. This freedom can be exercised only when people have capacity to exercise their choice.



Capability approach is a framework to obtain human development by building capacity of people in education, health, skills etc. Only when people develop these capabilities, they can live a life of dignity and inequalities can be minimised, without compromising liberty. He is a social egalitarian liberal who support welfare State.

Sen's capability approach was monumental in the development of 'human development' Index and has greatly influenced governments around the world, in their welfare approach.



Que.8

Explain the relationship between rights, liberty, equality and justice. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Rights, liberty, equality and Justice are central values in pol. philosophy. Various thinkers from the time of ancient Greece (Plato, Aristotle), to modern times, have dealt with these values. They are interlinked and essentially complementary to each other.

Various thinkers dealt with liberty and equality in different ways. Acc. to libertarians - liberty & equality are anti-thetical and liberty is the supreme value, which can't be compromised for equality. They support absolute right to property. Nozick held 'Social Justice' as 'mirage'.

Marxist - treats socio-econ. equality as supreme, compromising liberty totally. They treat 'liberty' as bourgeois value.

Social liberals like Rawls, Amartya Sen, Dworkin, tries to balance liberty and equality. They compromise liberty to the extent equality can be realised more meaningful.

Rawls in his theory 'Justice as Fairness' accommodate equality and liberty within justice. He advocate maximum equal liberty, subject to the condition, it's under eq. of opportunity and maximum advantageous for least advantaged. Thus, liberty and equality can be balanced to ensure justice.



Rights and justice are also interlinked. Rights ensure enforcement of liberty and equality and guaranteed protection to them. Justice is necessary to ensure meaningful realisation of Rights, where the justice delivery system is weak, Rights are not properly ensured.

Rights, liberty, equality and justice are moral aspirations aiming at ensuring peace, harmony and dignity of all in the society.