



PSIR Answer Writing Module – Target 2025

Test - 10

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: MINAL NEGI

Test Submission Date: 17/10/2024

Email Address: _____

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 :			



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Always Ahead



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Ans 1

Green revolution was launched in 1960s as a part of Integrated Agricultural Development Program to combat food insecurity and dependence on foodgrain imports.

The production centred approach rooted in capitalist philosophy made it highly capital intensive and labour intensive.

It led to increase in wealth gap, fragmentation of rural community, high rural indebtedness, unemployment due to mechanisation and problem of affluence. It gave a technocratic fix to a problem that equally impacted political economy and political sociology.

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Aditya Dasgupta in his study highlights that Green revolution led to political creative destruction of India. On one hand it had a democratising effect and on the other it negatively affected farmers of non green revolution belt.

Moreover, emergence of bullock capitalists (Rudolph & Rudolph) posed a challenge ~~of~~ to Congress hegemony. Electoral fragmentation in north India and decline of Congress can be credited to the same cause.

Adding to it, the social fallout of green revolution is highlighted by

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Utsa Patnaik in the form of alcoholism and drug abuse.

The same was spelled over to political sociology in the form of criminalisation and increase in no. of farmers in the parliament.

The movement also gave rise to various farmer pressure groups which demand farmer rights & fair crop prices time and again.

Ashok Gulati calls for a second green revolution to expand it to central and eastern India and include the unaddressed sections like the landless and women.

Ans 2.

Though not a conventional economist, Gandhi presented a holistic view of planning rooted in his ideals of self sufficiency, village centric and spiritual development.

Gandhi's view of planning is best reflected in his blue print of Gram Swaraj (book - Hind Swaraj). He advocates for a bottom up approach with village republics at the centre & follows ideals of trusteeship, bread labour and self reliance.

Opposed to the western notions of development, Gandhi was against full scale mechanisation and modernity. He advocated for production by

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masses instead of mass production.

EF Schumacher

highlights Gandhi's focus on economy of permanence through cottage industries. His main emphasis was on simplicity and sustainability rather than blind material growth.

However, Nehru was inspired by USSR's socialist policies. He advocated for heavy industrialisation, import substitution and neglected agrarian reforms.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar supported Nehruvian economics as a way of poverty alleviation. He opposed Gandhian ~~revival~~ pastoral romanticism as it would perpetuate caste hierarchies.

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BN Aggarwal and Srinian
Marayan presented Gandhian
plan after independence which
was opposed by Nehru. Nehru's
focus was on planned economy
and urban development with
focus on manufacturing.

Gandhi on the other
hand focussed on moral superiority
and constructive programs like
Khadi, village superiority.

Bhikhu Parekh
acknowledges Gandhian approach
as a solution of modern
challenges. However, Nehru's
policies cannot be ignored for their
role in development of core
industries

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Ans 3

Land Reforms refer to post independence, state led institutional reforms aimed at land redistribution and prevent wealth concentration.

Land Reforms have seen mixed results in India because of complex social, economic and political landscape. Reforms like abolition of intermediaries have been largely successful.

However, land ceiling reforms were taken aback due to legal loopholes. Benami transaction, formal divorces and division between joint families led to failure of land ceiling.

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Tenancy reforms were also limited in their success. Owners resorted to oral tenancy, self cultivation and even threats of eviction. Cooperative societies eventually turned into joint stock companies defeating their purpose

Atul Kohli posits that lack of political will and organisational capacity to confront propertied class led to failure of land reforms. Reluctance on the part of landed aristocracy inside Congress was a major factor.

Francine Frankel in his book "India's political economy" highlights that accommodative democratic politics has made it impossible to

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enact radical changes like land reforms.

Gunnar Myrdal

goes to the extent of calling India as a soft state. According to him India is a unique country with such a comprehensive legislation on land reforms with such poor implementation on ground.

However, India's agrarian crisis can be solved by legalising tenancy, accomodating landless labourers, encouraging civil societies to make peasants aware and a strong political and bureaucratic will.

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Ans 4.

The socio-economic profile has evolved from a Congress dominated house to a mosaic of diversity over the years.

The evolution of socio-economic profile of Lok Sabha ~~has~~ been highlighted by Shanker and Rodrigues in three main phases.

1950-1967 is the phase where Congress holds the house in its possession. Dominance of farmers and lawyers with huge number of foreign graduates is the main highlight. The house has only 5% women and SC/ST in proportion to the reservation quota.

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1967 to 1990s phase was unique because of first democratic upsurge (Yogendra Yadav). Rise of backward classes and regional parties in coalition era is traced to Mandal report and green revolution. Number of graduates increased with decrease in foreign graduates. Farmers and social activities dominate the frame.

After 1990s, with pronouncement of Mandal and Kamandal factors and dalits falling out of Congress fold is reflected in profile of Lok Sabha.

The house has evolved into a more representative forum with women participation increasing from 5% to 16% in 2024. In 18th Lok Sabha, all the parliamentarians are literate

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as opposed to 82% in first Lok Sabha. However, criminalisation of politics is reflected in 46% share of MP's with criminal cases.

However, the house has not seen major changes when it comes to Muslim representation (5% representation and 14% population), civil society activists. Farmers by profession are still dominant. Women representation is much below global average.

All things considered, the Lok Sabha has evolved significantly with decline in average age to 52 years. But remains unchanged in religious composition and upper caste dominance. 106th amendment and a powerful ECI give a positive hope.

Ans.

The left parties have gradually ~~were~~ waned away from political landscape of India with 21 seats in 1950 to just 2 in 2019.

Praful Bidwai in his book, "The Phoenix Movement" highlights the causes for decline of left ideology. Contradictory strategies and lack of organisational capacity are among major factors.

He finds it surprising that poor and farmer community of India cannot connect with Marxist ideology. According to Bidwai, failure of media engagement and a clear ideological base has eroded the left leanings from Indian politics.

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Moreover, the left has been confused with maoist links and insurgency activities in central and eastern India. They are often portrayed as anti-nationalist by emergent Hindu nationalist sections.

Adding to the fire is foreign policy leanings of left parties. They advocate for better relations with china, which seems anti-national. Also, their anti-American stance doesn't appeal to young voters.

The growing dominance of identity politics has further overshadowed the communist agenda. Hindu majoritarian policies and nationalist portrayal has given a final blow to left.

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Kancha Ilaiah gives ~~the~~ extreme views, saying that the left shall disappear, buried and forgotten.

However, Frederick Jameson, a Marxist gives a way forward. According to him, left parties should connect with masses ~~to~~ through social movements and rediscover their strength.

Success of CPI(M) in Kerala both in political and developmental landscape show that lack of funds and capacity is holding back the success of left. Human resource and democratic party structure and lead to a real people's movement for left.

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Ans 6.

Party system refers to the organisation of political parties in electoral landscape along with their impact and influence on politics.

Indian party system is shaped by a complex interplay of social, political and economic factors. Indian democracy & its success in south asia has been an intriguing case study for political scholars.

The country's strong federal structure and expanding state participation in national policies has given rise to regional parties. It has been furthered by delinking of state and national elections which gives them space to grow.

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Moreover, in a diverse country with hundreds of political parties, coalition politics is inevitable. Regional parties have been highly influential in running union governments (eg. DMK and left parties).

Maurice Duverger highlights the role of electoral system in framing party system of a nation. According to him, first past the post system gives rise to a two party system. While proportional representation often results into a multi-party system as even smallest parties get their due.

However, it has proved of limited significance in India as India has a vibrant multi party system inspite of FPTP. It is attributed to coalition politics.

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The most dominant factor is social cleavages (Theory by Lipset and Rokkan). Religion based parties like AIMIM, SAD; caste based parties like SP, BSP etc and economic agenda based parties like ~~left~~ CPI(M) and AAP reflect this trend.

caste political parties often do ~~electoral~~ calculations to field candidates, build coalitions and choose constituencies. Sudha Pai highlights how parties swing between identity politics and development agenda to navigate complex politics of India.

However, 2024 elections show dominance of developmental issues and urbanisation with a growing youth electorate.

Ans 7=

The electoral behaviour of India is a result of complex interplay of caste, language, ethnicity, economic issues and regional aspirations.

Abhijeet Bannerjee, Amory Gethin and Thomas Piketty in their research conclude that Indian voters vote on the basis of religion and caste instead of economic & political factors.

In India, the adage that, "Indians do not caste their vote but vote their caste" highlight the self-perpetuating nature of social factors. Regional parties like DMK, BSP, SP enforce caste consciousness and electoral fragmentation.

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The significance of caste and religion was evident in 2024 elections. Dalit victory of Awadesh Prasad in Faizabad, fielding of candidates by SP after caste calculations and AHINDA coalition reflect the continuity of influence of social factors.

However, the changing dynamics is highlighted by overshadowing of anticipated gains from Ram Mandir by developmental issues. Political parties strategically switch between identity politics and developmental agendas. (Sudha Pai).

According to Ashutosh Varshney, India is seeing saturation of identity politics with reservation already

touching 59%. and growth of
literate youth electorate.

Not only political
parties but the voters also
show electoral maturity. They
are able to differentiate between
developmental pragmatism over
normative social issues like caste
and class.

All things considered,
social factors remain dominant
force in Indian elections but
economic factors are evolving and
at times overshadowing identity
politics.

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Ans 8.

Post Mandal report phase is defined as the phase of vernacularisation of Indian politics because of rise of backward classes and their growing political consciousness.

Mandal report highlighted that OBC's are the largest group of Indian politics, which are strategically unavoidable due to their numerical strength (51%).

Moreover, simultaneous delinking of state and national elections led to emergence of regional parties on the basis of caste mobilisations.

Atul Kohli highlights that OBC's remain a significant group in electoral ~~re~~ landscape due to their unique position.

in caste hierarchy. They have seen both sides of caste discriminations. Moreover, they have struggled their way to politics as opposed to Dalits who got reservation at the inception of constitution.

F R Frankel defines OBC's as a fluid group and further sub-divides them into dominant castes (eg. Vardas in north and Kappus in south) and non dominant castes.

Also, Christophe Jaffrelot highlights the differences between OBC politics in north and south. The north saw late arrival as the backward classes preferred sanskritisation while those in the south questioned brahmanical dominance.

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The Mandal report gave rise to first generation of OBC leaders in the north such as Mulayam Singh Yadav. This eventually gave rise to OBC politics and challenge to congress hegemony.

However, in recent times, OBC politics has witnessed a decline due to saturation of caste based politics with reservations already touching 59.1%. Agitations by marathas, patidars, etc keep the fire burning but religion and class are increasingly dominating the frame.

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