

PSIR Answer Writing Module 2022

Test

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

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Test Submission Date: 17 November 2021

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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. Write the test in exam atmosphere.
9. **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:	

For any issue related to PSIR Test Series, write only at psirtestseries@shubhrranjan.com



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	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					

Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,

[illegible]

Q1) The concern of political thought is not just the explanation of state or its continuation, its concern is nothing less than 'moral phenomena of human behaviour in society' (C.L. Wayne). Comment.

Western political thought has witnessed several great thinkers who used normative and empirical theories to explain the formation of state and its continuance.

For Aristotle, state is natural and man becomes worthy of living a life only in state. Contractarians like Hobbes and Locke have explained 'social contract' for the basis of state. While Marxist look at state as an instrument of exploitation, the Capitalist want a 'night watchman' state to protect their life, liberty and property.

However as C.L. Wayne states, the concern of political thought is also the human behaviour in society. As Aristotle held that 'man is a political animal' it indicates that politics is essentially a human activity. Even Hannah Arendt took this view further as 'man as *zoon politikon*'

Human behaviour is studied by empiricists to understand and evaluate their role in society. Politics and ethics are concerned with human behaviour in society. The Socratic tradition of 'what constitutes a good life' requires the study of human behaviour.

Human behaviour in the state of nature has been the basis for the contractarians in giving absolute rights to the state. The sophist tradition also held that 'man is a measure of everything'.

Thus, along with state, study of human behaviour is also of utmost importance in political thought. Carole Harriash has rightly said 'Personal is Political' i.e. the human behaviour in family and in the state, society all becomes important in politics.

Q2. The Philosopher king is no addition or insertion, but the logical outcome of insertion of Plato's Principles (Barker). Critically examine.

Emerson held that 'Plato is philosophy and philosophy is Plato'. Regarded as the 'father of Political Philosophy', Plato's theory of philosopher king is one of his greatest & novel contribution.

Plato while giving his theory of justice, explains that only that society is just, where people do the tasks they are naturally suited at and do not interfere in the tasks of others. Men of Reason should be the rulers, Men of Courage should be the protectors and men of passion should be the producers.

To filter out men of different qualities, Plato devises a system of education which is very elaborate. Only those who pass the filtration tests at Ages 18 and 20 could move further to study subjects like logic, philosophy. From ages 20 to 35, men would

be taught these subjects followed by 15 years of practical training. Only those who emerge successful at the age of 50, would be the rulers i.e. the Philosopher king.

Thus, it is evident that Philosopher king is the logical outcome of his theories of education and justice. Plato held that, A philosopher king would be reluctant to rule and he would have to sacrifice his love for knowledge for the service of nation. Thus philosopher king is a symbol of knowledge & sacrifice.

Plato's Philosopher king is however utopian. Even his greatest critic and disciple, Aristotle criticizes Plato and wants the 'rule of law' over philosopher king. Karl Popper calls Plato as an enemy of open society as the Philosopher king becomes the basis for totalitarianism. However, although utopian, one has to give due credit to Plato for showing what ought to be.

Q3. Give reasons for Aristotle's preference for the mixed constitution. Do you think Polity is the best practicable form of government? Substantiate your point of view.

Aristotle is regarded as 'Father of Political science'. He adopted an empirical approach and studied the constitutions of 158 countries to come to a logical and balanced conclusion.

Aristotle held that Polity is the best practicable form of government. It is the golden mean of Oligarchy (rule of few rich) and Democracy (rule of many poor). Polity is the rule of 'middle class'. According to Aristotle, the middle class prefers stability and thus the state or ruler should try to bring people in the middle class to ensure a stable government.

Aristotle stands for 'golden mean' as the 'golden rule' and hence he preferred the mix of constitutions. Rule of few rich and many poor are undesirable. Democracy leads to tyranny of majority which also inspired J.S. Mill. Even Machiavelli held that the Prince should take the side of middle class and not the oligarchs.

In the context of India, we can see how electoral politics is influenced by majoritarianism and policies that are not deliberated and discussed. Aristotle's ideas are relevant. Even Winston Churchill was a critic of majoritarian democracy.

Q4. The real aim of Machiavelli's searches and his science was the demonstration of precepts related to political action. Discuss.

Machiavelli is one of the most criticized thinkers in western political thought. His best work 'The Prince' is an excellent book on statecraft. He discusses at length the human nature and advises the 'Prince' on how to rule best by taking its advantage.

Machiavelli advocated 'Dual morality'. He wanted the Prince to separate ethics and politics. The Prince should focus on the ends and can sacrifice the means to achieve it. If he sacrifices 'what is' for 'what ought to be', the people will not forgive him. If it is for 'raison-d-etat' (for the state), the Prince's actions are justified and he is not answerable to anyone.

Machiavelli adopted science i.e. he said that the Prince should have knowledge of human psychology. He should understand the nature of man i.e. selfish, coward, fickle-minded and utilitarian. The Prince should be very careful in dealing with his subjects. His love and punishment, both should be extreme.

Machiavelli wanted the Prince to be brave like lion and cunning like a fox. This view is even advocated by Kautilya who is considered as 'Indian Machiavelli'. Machiavelli's views have led to the foundation of the 'Realist school' in International Politics.

For Machiavelli, the Prince should advocate whatever is necessary for the stability of his empire. He can also use religion to his own benefit. Thus, it becomes evident that the aim of Machiavelli's searches and science was demonstration of precepts related to political action.

Today, as Dunning held, 'Everyone is Machiavelian', but no one wants to accept it. In today's politics, either national or international Machiavelli's ideas are relevant and practical.

(16). The greatest liberty of the subject consists in silence of law (Hobbes). Comment.

Hobbes is regarded as the 'first modern thinker' as he gave a very elaborate justification for 'sovereignty of state'. Hobbes was a 'child of his times'. He witnessed the Puritan revolution and the Spanish Armada and thus forms a negative view of human nature and gives absolute powers to state.

Hobbes's main concern is security and not liberty. Thus, in his contract he gives absolute powers to the state and even gave the state, right to punish if someone disobeys the law. He held that, 'Covenants without sword', are nothing but words and of no use.

Thus, only liberty available to man is where law is silent i.e. state has not formed law. In the state of nature, man was living with 'natural law or natural rights'. However Hobbes does not regard, natural law as real law. For him, they are 'counsels of prudence'. The only law which is valid, is the law created by the state.

Hobbes views are based on his experiences of the events happening during his time. Locke took the contract of Hobbes further and advocated that 'no law, no liberty'. For Locke, natural law is important and the state cannot take away right to life, liberty and property.

However Hobbes's state is sovereign and can take the right to life in a manner written in law i.e. procedure established by law. Thus Hobbes gives state absolute rights. Hobbes was criticized by the church which burnt copies of his book 'Leviathan' as he even kept the church under the sovereignty of state.

Q6. Men being by nature all free, equal & independent, no one can be put out of his estate and subjected to the political power of another without his own consent. (Locke). elucidate.

Locke is known as the scholar of 'passive individualism'. As a contractarian, he establishes the sovereignty of the state, however does not give it absolute power.

For Locke, right to life, liberty and property are of utmost importance. No reasonable man would give the state these rights. They are given to man by 'natural law' while he was living in the state of nature. Locke's views differ from Hobbes as he witnessed the peaceful 'glorious revolution' and thus takes a balanced stand of human nature.

Locke in his 'Second Treatise' forms the contract first with civil society and then with the state. He gives the state the rights to make, execute and adjudicate laws. Thus, Locke is the originator of the 'doctrine of separation of powers'. The state can make any law, but not a law that takes away man's life, liberty or property. Property is product of man's own labour.

People will have the right to revolt against the state if ~~to~~ it deprives a person of his property. Thus Property for Locke is of supreme importance. It forms the basis of liberal thought of 'night watchman state'.

For the marxist, private property is a source of evil and thus they go for Communism i.e. common ownership of property. Locke says that 'no law, no liberty' i.e. natural law which guarantees the right to life, liberty & property will only ensure liberty in the state. Hence, Locke is rightly called as a scholar of 'possessive ~~liberal~~ individualism'.

Q7. 'The prince' was the first great work which marked a break from the medieval way of thinking. Discuss.

Machiavelli is one of the most criticized thinkers in western political thought. He was a 'true child of renaissance' and thus witnessed the medieval age and transition to the modern age. The 'Prince' is a great work which contains advice on statecraft.

Machiavelli witnessed the corrupt institution of Church and thus was a critic of Church and feudal lords. He advises the Prince on various ways in which he can use the nature of man to his advantage and rule. The medieval age was characterized by religion. Machiavelli advises the 'Prince' to use religion to his own advantage.

The most criticized aspect of Machiavelli's thought is his separation of politics and ethics. For the 'Prince', the ends justify the means. The Prince should not sacrifice the ends for the purity of the means. For the 'raison-d-etat' (state's purpose) everything is justified. Thus he led to the foundation of 'realist school of thought' in International politics.

Machiavelli separated the church and the state for the first time. However, it was Hobbes who established the sovereignty of the state over the church for the first time. 'The Prince' can thus be regarded as making a break from the medieval way of thinking. It marked a transition from 'theory of divine rights' and corrupt institutions of church and feudalism. Machiavelli was a nationalist and he wanted to reestablish the glory of Italy.

For this, 'The Prince' becomes an excellent work for an enterprising person.

Q8. It is clear cut individualism which makes Hobbes's philosophy, the most revolutionary of the age (Sabine). Examine.

Hobbes is regarded as the 'first modern thinker' as he gave the utmost importance to the concept of 'sovereignty of state'. Hobbes laid the foundation of utilitarianism and capitalism. Hobbes is regarded as 'the greatest of all individualists'.

For Hobbes, the right to life is of utmost importance. It is so important that a person can even kill another person for the protection of his own ~~right~~ life. Hobbes witnessed the Puritan revolution and Spanish Armada and it influenced his views. Thus, Hobbes advocates absolute powers to the state for the security of life. In the social contract, everyone comes together and grants the state their rights provided the state will secure them.

In the state of nature, there was no security of life. It was a state of war, of all against all. Life, according to Hobbes was nasty, poor, brutish and short.

Now that the state has come into existence, it has been granted absolute power. However, the state cannot take away the life of a person in an arbitrary manner. It has to be according to Procedure established by law. If the state takes away the right to life, people can revolt against the state.

Thus, Sabine has rightly held that it is individualism which makes Hobbes' philosophy the most revolutionary. It forms the basis of Liberalism and the concept of 'night watchman' state. Hobbes' philosophy has been taken further by Locke who establishes that right to life, liberty and property are of utmost importance.