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Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2022

Test 2

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: _____ Dishant Nisar

Test Submission Date: 17 November 2021

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. 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,

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Q1 Only those invasions of liberty are justified, which create opportunities of further liberty (Mill). Comment.

John Stuart Mill is known as the 'champion of liberty' as he ensured liberalism doesn't become crude capitalism. He has broadened the idea of liberty and thus, it is said that 'If there's anyone who is liberal, it is mill'.

Mill says liberty is necessary condition for development of individual. It is also necessary for the state. In this context, he says, 'No state becomes great by dwarfing its own people'. Thus, a state should grant liberty to its citizens for their development.

However, he brings in 'harm principle' as a means to justify invasion of liberty. He divides human action into self regarding & other's regarding action. Man should have complete liberty in self-regarding actions. In other's regarding action, state should interfere if it causes harm to someone.

Mill's division of human actions has been criticized as they are subjective. Any action can be categorized as self-regarding or other's regarding. Mill further brings in

inconsistencies to his thought by giving the example of a man crossing a bridge that is about to fall. Mill says, state should interfere and protect the man as his 'real will' would not be of dying.

Thus, Mill brings in the meta-physical concept of 'real will' which further shows his inconsistencies. Ernst Barker calls Mill as 'prophet of empty liberty'. Mill wants absolute liberty on one hand & yet he leaves ample scope for state's intervention.

Q2. The history of all hitherto existing societies is a history of class struggle (Marx). Comment.

Karl Marx is one such thinker whose ideas have had the greatest impact in the modern world. Marx gives the above statement to inspire workers to go for 'violent revolution'.

Marx goes for his scientific explanation and uses 'Historical materialism' to explain the progress of history. This idea is inspired from Hegel's 'Historical idealism' and the dialectical movement of history.

Marx says that class struggle is inevitable. He gives the following stages :-

Slave societies → Feudal societies → Capitalist societies → Socialism → Communism.

As dialectics happen, negativity gets negated. What survives is the best form. After capitalist societies, violent revolution would take place. Socialism would be established. Slowly a peaceful transition to communism would happen. State would wither away.

This concept also shows the influence of Darwin's natural selection on Karl Marx.

As communism is the best form, it is inevitable.

However, Marx has been criticised by

Karl Popper for giving an ideological view of history. Popper says that Marx's ideas are not scientific as they are not opened for falsification.

Though Marx gave this concept to show workers the inevitability of ~~capitalism~~ communism, yet he wants workers to go for immediate violent revolution. For Marx, man makes history in given circumstances & not chosen circumstances.

Q3. Hegemony is the organising principle diffused by the process of socialization into every arena of daily life (Gramsci). Discuss.

Gramsci's 'Prison notebooks' are considered as one of the highly original contribution in 20th century political thought. He has given the most important 'Theory of Hegemony' that explains the resilience of capitalist societies.

When Orthodox marxists said communist revolution would usher in time, no such revolution & overthrow took place. Capitalist societies were still thriving. Gramsci studied and analyzed the role of civil societies to understand it. He said that the role of culture and institutions also become important. They are separate structure in themselves and not dependent on the basic economic structure.

Gramsci said that civil societies play a role in manufacturing consent through which the ruling bourgeoisie ideas become the 'Common Sense' ideas. This consent is developed by intellectuals, civil society institutions. The state rules through consent and only if consent fails, it goes for coercion.

Gramsci borrowed the term 'Historic bloc' from George Soxel. He advised the workers class to create their own ideology by

Collaborating with other institutions i.e historic
blacks and create their own set of intellectuals
to create their own hegemony.

Gramsci's ideas have become important
to understand the contemporary role of popular
culture. It is through socialization in every-
day arena of daily life that hegemony is
diffused. The state becomes opaque and all
powerful.

Ques. Critically examine the relevance of Hannah Arendt's theory of Action in contemporary times.

Hannah Arendt has the distinction of being the first female professor in Political Science. Her thoughts are one of the most original contributions to 20th century political thought.

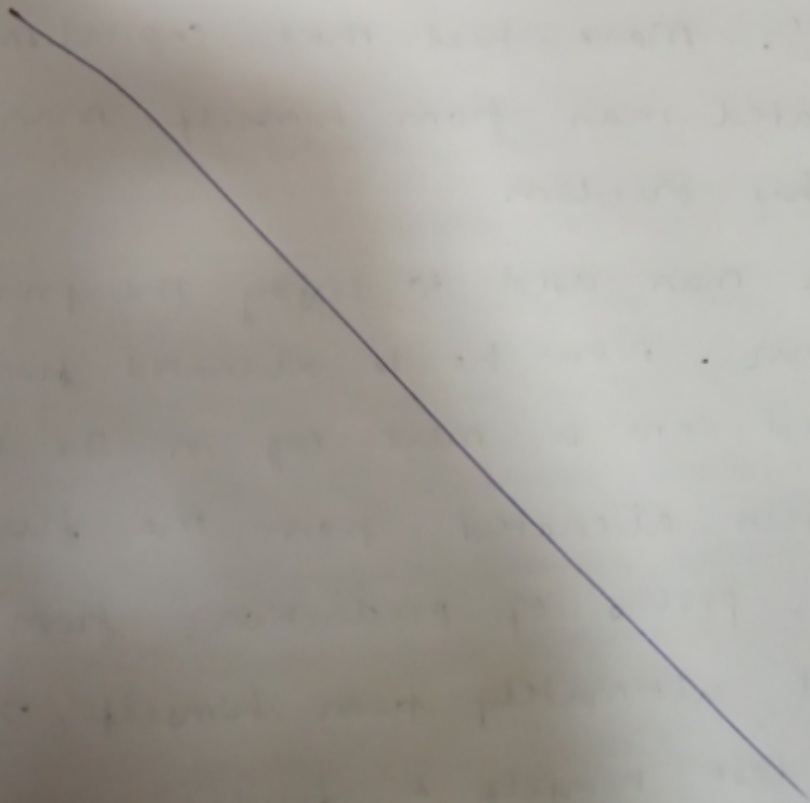
Arendt has given her theory of Action in her book 'On The Human Condition' written in 1958. She belongs to the classical 'civic republicanism' school of thought which has its origin in Aristotle. Arendt has accepted Aristotelian notion of 'man as a political Animal'. She explains Action as a distinct human activity.

She gives a hierarchy of human actions. Here she criticizes modernity which has reduced man as a mere 'Animal laborans'. In this Condition man's actions are for his existence and is like a slave. Man as 'Homo Faber' is the second stage. Here man builds walls that separates nature & human realm.

Finally 'man as zoon politicon' is the stage where man is free and participates in 'Spaces of appearance' to speak, discuss & deliberate. Arendt revives the ancient notion of Praxis as different from Poiesis.

for H. Arendt, 'vita activa' is important and not 'vita contemplativa' (Individual action). Her theory becomes important in contemporary times especially after the Covid pandemic. There is a need for man to reclaim the political space and act, discuss & deliberate.

Today, the world is witnessing de-globalization and thus there is a rise of right wing authoritarian regimes. It becomes important for man to participate and exert his rights.



Q5. Critically evaluate the Marx's notion of freedom.

Karl Marx is one of the most important modern political thinker. He says that the freedom that exists in liberal democracies is 'false consciousness'. He thus avoids using the word liberty as it is associated with liberalism.

Marx advises the workers to go for 'revolutionary consciousness'. Only in a communist society freedom is guaranteed. Marx's concept of Alienation becomes relevant which is given in his 'Economic & philosophic manuscripts'. Marx held that capitalism has alienated man from himself. Man has lost his freedom.

Earlier man used to enjoy the product of his labour. Now he is alienated from it and turned into a mere cog in the wheel. Man has been alienated from the fruit of his labour, process of production, from the society and ultimately from himself. Thus, man has lost himself & freedom.

Marx wants the workers to go for violent revolution and overthrow the Capitalist class. He wants workers to become a 'class for itself' and not a 'class in itself'.

Marx's notion of freedom has been further studied by critical school i.e Frankfurt school of Neo-Marxism. Neo-Marxist critics science and thus take an anti-positivist stand. Herbert Marcuse's concept of 'one dimensional man' also indicates how capitalism had curbed the freedom of man.

cl6.

Examine H. Arendt's view on the role of power in the society and her strategy to defend human freedom against the use of violence.

H. Arendt's thoughts are one of the most original contributions to 20th century political thought. She has given a distinct view of power and use of violence in her book 'On violence'.

H. Arendt distinguishes power from strength, force and violence. Power is a human activity that appears in plurality. Strength becomes a feature of human & force is a feature of nature. Violence is used by the state while power is expressed by the people.

For Arendt, Power is a 'sui-generis' concept. Power emerges when people come together to discuss and deliberate in the 'spaces of appearances'. It is a human activity that is expressed through speech. It leads to freedom. Power disappears when people disperse and re-emerges when they come back together.

Arendt explains that violence is a means used by totalitarian forms of government. To defend human freedom against the use of violence, Arendt suggests public participation. She wants citizens to play an active role and reclaim public spaces.

Only when people act together, discuss & deliberate, it will ensure freedom & protection from violence. Arendt thus belongs to the tradition of 'civic republicanism' which has its origins in 'Aristotelian school of thought' and evident in the writings of Rousseau, Tocqueville.

Q7. Gramsci's analysis of the intellectual class offers a new insight with respect to the conventional view of the intellectuals. Comment.

Gramsci's 'Prison notebooks' are considered as one of the most original contributions to 20th Century political thought. He has given the 'Theory of Hegemony' which explains the resilience of capitalist societies.

Gramsci explains the role of ideology and civil society in manufacturing consent and thus establishing the hegemony of the ruling bourgeoisie class. He highlights the role of intellectuals in shaping ideology and creating consent.

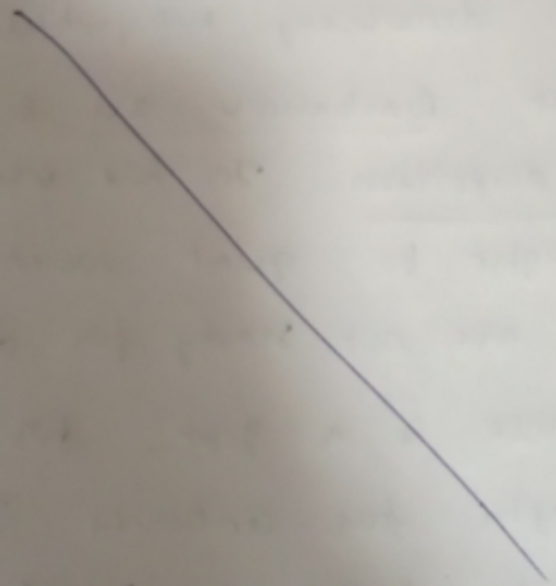
He says that 'Traditional intellectuals' who consider themselves as autonomous of the class interest, are in fact responsible for the hegemony. Their ideas & thoughts help in cultural hegemony of ruling ideas. Gramsci says that the subaltern class need to create their own set of ideas & establishing its own hegemony.

This can be done through 'organic intellectuals' which emerge when a new set of class appears. Gramsci says that the duty of organic intellectual is to create ideas for the interests of the sub-altern class.

Gramsci also says that 'every person is an intellectual'. But only some can perform the social function of intellectuals'.

Thus, the ideas of organic intellectuals are necessary to ensure that the sub-altern class can win a 'war of position' before the final 'war of manoeuvre'.

Thus Gramsci's views of intellectuals in shaping hegemony has become important to understand the role of contemporary popular culture.



Q8. Mill was a champion of democracy, yet fails to bring the idea of democracy to its logical conclusion. Discuss.

John Stuart Mill is considered as the 'champion of liberty'. Although he is an inconsistent thinker, yet his ideas are still relevant in the contemporary times.

Mill says that 'Democracy is the best form of government'. Although he wants Direct democracy, yet he agrees that current societies conditions make it imperative to establish 'Representative democracy'. However, Mill as a 'champion of democracy' doesn't agree on bringing democracy everywhere.

He says that 'Barbarians are better off with benevolent despotism'. In his views, India & China might be great societies before yet today they are not ready for democracy. Democracy for Mill is a gift, for which people have fought for centuries. Thus it would not be proper to introduce it everywhere.

C.L. Wayne criticizes Mill as a 'reluctant democrat'. In the context of India, Gandhi and Nehru can be considered as 'passionate democrats' as they wish to take democracy to everyone.

Mill further brings in Aristocratic elements like plural voting, strengthening the house of lords. He is also not in favour of granting workers & poor the right to vote. Yet he still strongly advocates that women should get the right to vote.

Thus, it would be fair to say that Mill was a champion of democracy, yet he fails to bring the idea of democracy to its logical conclusion.