



SHUBHRA RANJAN

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25, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi 110005. ☎ 011 45612719

PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 1

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: NIKITA VERMA

Test Submission Date: 10/09/2022

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:		Evaluator Code:	

For any issue related to PSIR Test Series, write only at testseries@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]



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Que.1

Explain the difference between political thought, political theory, political philosophy and political ideology? In what way Political Science can be treated as a science? (200 words, 15 Marks)

Political thought refers to thinking of an age. It can be understood with respect to time & age. It is essentially concerned with State.

for eg

Ancient Political Thought can be broadly classified as :-

- a) Indian ⇒ with scholars like Kautilya
- b) Western ⇒ with scholars like Plato.

'Theory' refers to a set of explanation for a particular phenomena.



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Political Theory refers to explaining a particular phenomena related to state

for eg Marx's political theory is stateless & classless society

Political Ideology is constructed for the mobilisation of masses.

for eg

Gandhian nation of Ram Rajya
Lenin's Communist Revolution

'Political Philosophy' is concerned to understanding the reality behind state
Plato is ~~concerned~~ ^{regarded} as the



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father of political philosophy.
He had given the idea
of perfect / Ideal state ruled
by Philosopher King.

The systematic study of
'Politics' led to the
beginning of "Political
Science". Aristotle is regarded
as father of political science.

The development of Political
Science as a subject after
WWII can be attributed
to "American Political
Science Association" which
emphasised an scientific
study of Political Science



Que.2

"Unexamined life is not worth living"-Socrates. Comment. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Socrates is considered as the wisest of all individuals. He is widely referred to as the father of philosophy.

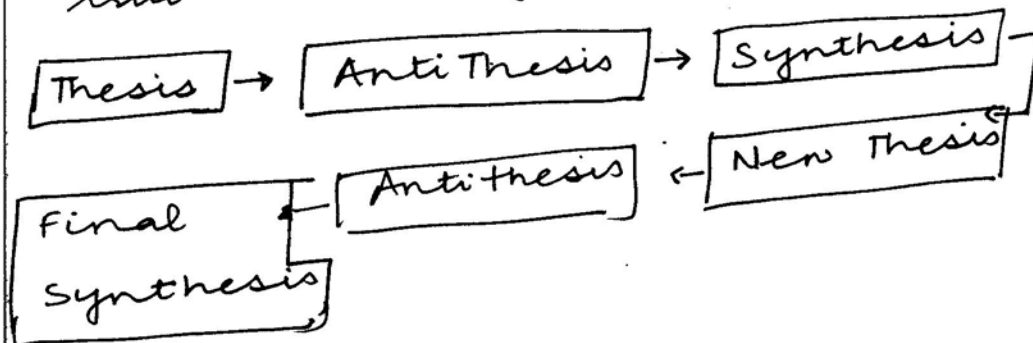
The above statements is the philosophy & telos of Socrates as a thinker.

The love for "true knowledge" led ~~to~~ Socrates to cross examine all his beliefs. This process later on came to be popularly known as "Dialectics".

For Socrates, true knowledge is the best knowledge, without any clutter, thus represents Synthesis.



The process of arriving at true knowledge includes :-



Socrates in search of true knowledge could even die for his ideas.

When he was charged of misleading the youth & causing havoc in Athens, the Judge gave Socrates two options :- either he drinks Hamlock, or he stops the process of dialectics (misleading the youth)

Socrates chose the first option because he believed that "An unexamined



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life is not worth living"
Plato calls Socrates as the
first martyr of philosophy

Even today we see that
those who try to bring
reality into the front are
sidelined. For eg: Gandhi
after independence emphasised
the need for village republics
for India but he was
sidelined by the
other emerging leaders of that
time.



Que.3

"The law of nature is the basis of all morality". In the light of the statement explain Locke's theory of rights. (200 words, 15 Marks)

John Locke belongs to the social contract tradition of State. He proposes a minimal state

Unlike Hobbes, Locke takes the 'enlightened' view of human nature. For Locke, man in the state of Nature had reason. Reason in man taught him not to harm the other in his life, liberty & property. Thus, he was able to control his passions.

To continue to enjoy the rights man entered into



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the social contract and removed the unnecessary inconveniences.

Thus, Locke proposes a nightwatchman state which is concerned with maintaining law & order. Here, man enjoys maximum rights & transfers minimum rights.

For Locke, the source of rights is Nature. He belongs to the tradition of Natural rights. Man was born with these rights & state protects them. "The law of Nature is the basis of morality"



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Morality or the sense of right/wrong, or ethics enables man to live a social life.

Thus, for Locke, man continued to have social life even without the state because of enlightened nature of man.

Locke has given this theory to justify giving least power to state.

Locke's theory of Natural Rights has later on given inspiration to several leaders & movements.

eg anti apartheid movement, Bal Gangadhar's slogan that "Freedom is my birthright"



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Que.4

"The fact is that a man who wants to act virtuously in every way necessarily comes to grief among so many who are not virtuous" - Machiavelli. Comment. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Machiavelli is the most criticised political philosopher of all time. It is said that "everyone hates Machiavelli, but in politics everyone follows him."

Though criticised, Machiavelli's work **THE PRINCE** is regarded as the best work ever done in the field of Statecraft.

Machiavelli has given a set of detailed instructions for the aspiring Prince, the political entrepreneur.



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He has discussed the nature of politics as a profession. He asserts that it is the mark of an individual to expect as much goodness in a profession as its nature permits.

Thus, politics is the struggle for power. In politics, good guys finish last

When a prince acts in a virtuous manner everyone, he brings grief not only to himself but also the state. By doing so, he will not enjoy the support of his subjects.

He wants that the Prince should be inspired by "animal virtues"



The Prince should be clever like fox & brave like lion. In this way, though he'll appear virtuous but he will be able to achieve good for his fatherland.

Though heavily criticized, it is to be noted that Machiavelli was the greatest patriot of all times. He was disturbed to see the downfall of Italy & wanted to make Italy great again. Thus, the teachings of Machiavelli as a thinker can't be ignored at all.



Que.5

Hobbes's political theory is based on psychological egoism and the social contract. Discuss (200 words, 15 Marks)

Hobbes is regarded as the first modern political thinker.

Hobbes' Leviathan is considered as the beginning of modernity in western Political Thought.

Hobbes political theory is based on psychological egoism. Hobbes establishes that man is selfish by nature. His actions

are based on the basis of pleasure/pain. But man is unable to understand the pleasure/pain of others.

This led to Hobbes describing the dark nature of man in the state of Nature.



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As man is selfish, life in state of nature is nasty, poor, brutish & short

Hobbes is regarded as a great individualist. He has removed the guilt associated with being selfish. Thus, he emerges as an egoistic individual.

Hobbes social contract is the outcome of man's selfish nature. Since man wants to enjoy pleasure therefore, he creates a 'state'.

Leviathan / Absolute state can help individuals enjoy liberty. In order to enjoy rights, man transfers all his rights to state except the right to life.



This is so because if the state fails to protect the right to life of an individual then man has the right to revolt.

Hobbes has been criticised for being "Individualist in his assumptions & absolutists in his conclusions". But it is to be noted that as per Hobbes only an absolutist state can protect the individual.

Hobbes is called as "first modern thinker" because he separated religion & state and brought religion under the ambit of state. For this reason, the church banned his book.



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Que.6

"Dear is Plato, but dearer still is truth" - Aristotle. In the light of the above statement establish that Aristotle is not only the greatest disciple of Plato, but is also his greatest critic. (200 words, 15 Marks)

ARISTOTLE is regarded the greatest disciple and greatest critic of Plato.

Plato had given an idealised view of state, politics, reality & had disregarded world of matter as a mere reflection.

Plato's ontological view was that Idea is reality & this world / phenomenal world is a mere reflection of it.

Aristotle also believed that Idea is reality. But ontologically he believed that the world of matter can't be neglected altogether. It is important to study.



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Epistemologically, since idea is real, to get true knowledge Plato believed in dialectics. For Aristotle, since both idea & matter are relevant therefore empirical study & dialectics is needed.

Plato has given the concept of Allegory of Cave. Aristotle has given the Theory of causation & Theory of Potentiality & Actuality.

Plato's ideal state is Philosopher King, Aristotle accepts it is as ideal but considers Polity as the best practicable form of government.



Despite these differences,
both these thinkers belong
to SOCRATIC TRADITION &
emphasise on the role of
ethics in politics. Both are
critic of Sophist tradition.

Whitehead believed that entire
political thought is nothing
but footwork to the works
of Plato & Aristotle.

Thus, Aristotle presents
an alternate of CIVIC
REPUBLICANISM. For him,
Plato is dear but truth is
dearer.



Que.7

Locke is the proponent of the doctrine of possessive individualism par excellence. Elaborate (200 words, 15 Marks)

Locke is the scholar of social contract tradition.

It is said that Locke is an individualist out & out.

Locke has proposed a state that helps man enjoy his life, liberty & pursuit of property.

Being a capitalist scholar Locke believed that property is part of man's identity; since it is a reflection of his labours.

Thus, he should have full control over it. Apart from he believes that state should allow man to amass as much property



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as he wants, because property is a source of happiness.

Locke is a proponent of possessive individualism. He believes that property helps man achieve excellence.

In line with the above, he proposes a "Nightwatch State" that protects the property of the individual.

A state which doesn't charge extra taxes on the individual in name of progressive taxation.

Locke is an individualist who believes that property is a result of man's own labour & neither the



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state nor the society had any role in making. Therefore, they aren't entitled to pay back.

Such view is often criticised in socialist countries as a means of 'concentration of wealth' & exploitation of individuals.

Nonetheless, Locke's ideas remain relevant to protect the individual from the tyranny of the state & so that man can enjoy maximum liberty.



Que.8

"Like men, like State; governments vary as the characters of men vary....." - Plato. Critically Evaluate. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Plato is regarded as the greatest political philosopher. He

believed that "state is individual writ large". He believed that just like men even state has characteristics & Justice is the guiding principle of all.

Plato has given the myth of metals for men. He believed that in every man there are certain components like,

Men of Temperance → Men of Copper
Men of Courage → Men of Silver
Men of Knowledge → Men of Gold

In each individual, all three characteristics exist, but ~~one~~ one of them nominates.



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Men of copper are many in number, while men of silver are few & men of gold are fewer.

In order to attain happiness, man should follow the virtue associated with it.

Similarly, In a state there are several individuals with different virtues.

Justice is the architectonic principle. So, every individual should try & achieve his telos.

The role of Philosopher King is to be establish Justice or

RIGHT POSITIONING where

every individual is practising his virtue



Plato is often criticised for promoting inequality & giving rise to dangerous ideologies like fascism.

But it is to be noted that Plato preferred to support harmony instead of hollow equality.

Plato is also criticized for promoting social divisions & justifying dangerous practices like "white man's burden".

Karl Popper called Plato as enemy of open society.

Nonetheless, the notion of Justice given by Plato holds relevance even today and acts as a guiding light.

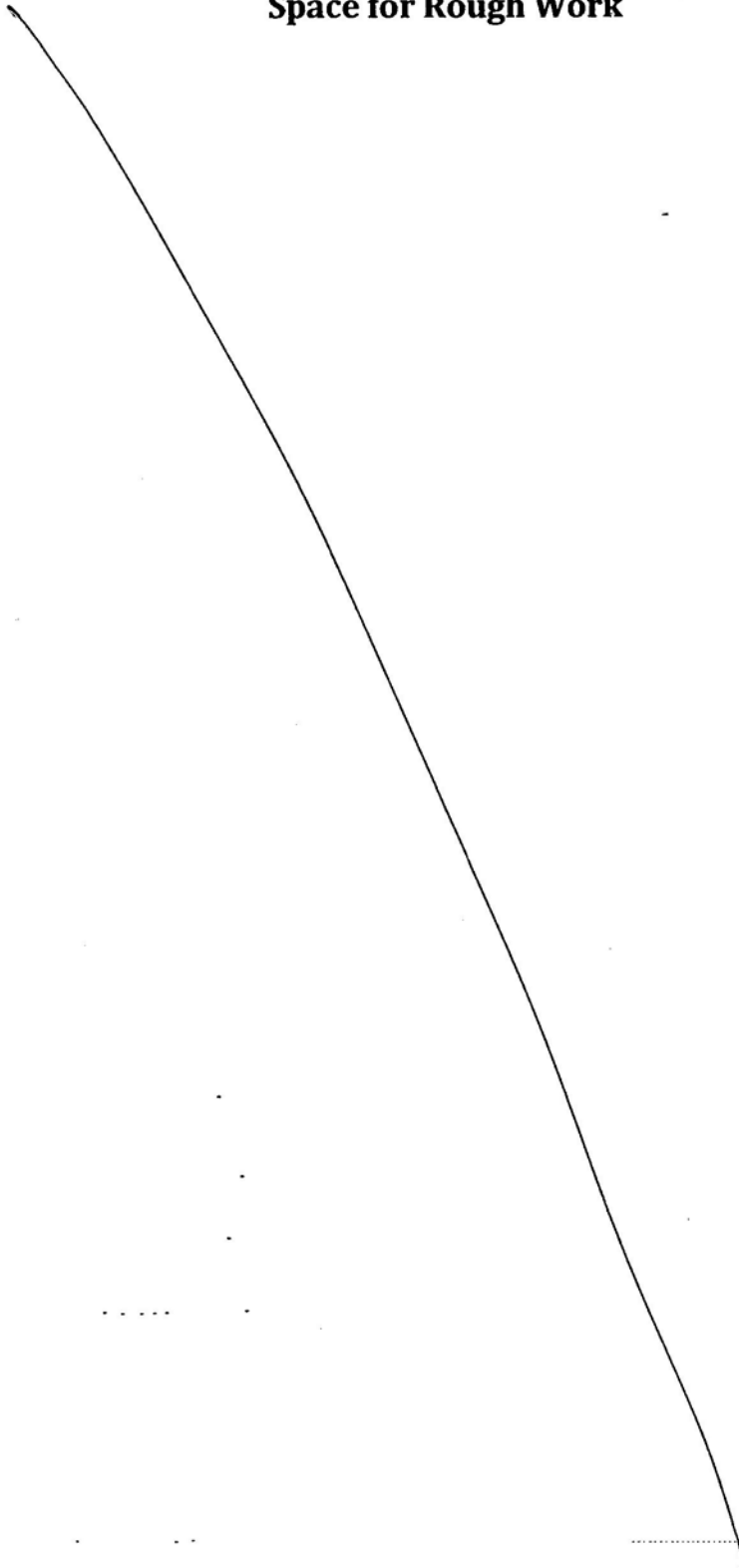


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Space for Rough Work





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