



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 3

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: NIKITA VERMA

Test Submission Date: 01/10/2022

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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Que.1

Write a critical note on the concept of sovereignty with a special reference to Austin's theory of sovereignty. (200 words, 15 Marks)

The theory of sovereignty is indispensable in modern political theory.

Modern Nation states emerged in Europe after "30 years" of war. At that time, sovereignty of the State over church & other institutions became the defining hallmark of Nation State.

Sovereignty means supreme authority. It determines "whose will shall prevail?"

As per political theorists of modern times like HOBBS & MACHIAVELLI, the State is sovereign in making laws, executing them & punishing for non obedience.



Max Weber believed that since state is sovereign. So, only state has the right to exercise violence. State establishes order, punishes via its institutions like police, army etc.

As per the Montevideo Convention of 1933, there are 4 essential features of Nation State :-

1. Territory
2. Population
3. Government
4. sovereignty

Government exercises sovereignty on the population residing in its territory.

JOHN AUSTIN believes that ~~sovereignty~~ is associated with :-

- COMMAND
- DUTY.



State's commands are to be followed citizens are duty bound towards the states who protect them.

The Monistic theory of state that rests on sovereignty of state has been challenged by the pluralistic theory of state by scholars like Laski. Laski asserts that "it would be of benefit to the discipline of political science if the notion of sovereignty is thrown out of it". This is so because monistic theory contributes to conflicts, wars at the international level.

Nonetheless, the present status of Nation States is characterised by sovereignty that helps them take independent decisions



Que.2

The main objective of feminist critique is to explore the extent of patriarchal ideology in political philosophy to explore the material forms of discrimination against women. Discuss. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Feminism is an ideology against patriarchy. Feminists are those men & women who believe that patriarchy discriminates against women, and doesn't allow due representation of women in public sphere. It is also against the societal differential treatment given to women in the household.

The origin of Patriarchy can be traced back to the French Revolution. MARY WOLLSTONE CRAFT through the "Declaration of Rights of Women" challenged the "patriarchal ideology in political philosophy". By presenting the "Declaration of Rights of Man" only the Revolution



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ignored women.

Marxists scholars like Engels believed that the reason for exploitation of women is Capitalism. Women constitute the bourgeoisie class, who can't own property. But Feminists like Kate Millet & Shula Smith Firestone have criticised for mainstream liberal and marxist paradigms for their mechanical application

Cynthia Enlow in her work "Where are the women" has questioned the underrepresentation of women in the state & its institutions. She asserts that when she looks at state it appears male to me.



carole Hanisch has criticised political philosophers like Aristotle, Machiavelli, Rousseau for ignoring women. Except for scholars like Plato & Mill they are not vocal for women's right

Personal is political is another urgent call to address the discrimination faced by women in four walls of the family.

Lastly, feminists believe that one is not born woman, she is made one. Thus, the material, social, cultural, political situations determine women's choices & discriminate against them.



Que.3

Liberalism is a view of a thing and not a theory. Comment? (200 words, 15 Marks)

Liberalism is synonymous to toleration, openness, rationality, bipartisan view of politics. In western countries, liberalism is not just an Ideology rather it is a way of life. Liberalism promotes discussions, debates, collective decision making & is often believed to be DEMOCRATIC.

Apart from West, it is said that India is the only liberal country in the Eastern world. Indian society, values... & ethos are essentially based on "VASUDEV KUTUMBHAM" i.e. the world is a ~~new~~ family. Indian ~~culture~~ cultural has always been liberal & open to new ideas philosophy, knowledge etc.



Liberalism stands for "Liberty"
Liberty can be understood
in speech, action, dress, thoughts
& every part of life.

J.S. Mill asserts that "No state
becomes powerful by dwarfing
its own citizens". Thus, a
characteristic feature of liberalism
is Freedom of Speech & Expression

Liberalism has evolved as
meta-ideology. It has several
sub-sects associated with it.

ISAIAH BERLIN describes two
types of liberty :-

① Negative liberty → liberty
in the absence of state. Thus,
need of limited state.

② Positive liberty → liberty
in the presence of state. Thus,
need of a welfare state.



Negative liberals like J.S. Mill,
neo liberals like Robert Nozick,
Hayek believe in market
fundamentalism & nightwatch
man state.

Positive liberals like
Ernst Barker, T.H. Green, &
Laski want state to perform
welfare functions like providing
health, education etc.

Social liberals like Amartya
Sen emphasise on CAPACITY
BUILDING BY THE STATE

Liberalism has emerged,
evolved, modified itself
several times to remain
relevant in the lives of
people.



Que.4

Fascism began as a movement demanding revolutionary changes in the social and political structure but soon became a counter revolutionary force. With reference to above explain the nature of fascism as an ideology. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Fascism is the form of governments that were prevalent in European countries like Italy & Germany during the Inter war period (1919 - 1939).

Hannah Arendt believes that fascism is not an ideology rather it is a propaganda. It is a totalitarian form of government that uses violence as a means without clear objectives. It perpetuates at every form of the society.

ORIGIN

Often, these fascist leaders came to power by legitimate democratic means, for eg Hitler, and later on destroy the democratic system.



Mussolini asserted "Parliament is a talking shop suited for rich countries". Thus after coming to power they destroy the institution

They often come to power demanding revolutionary changes. Eric Fromm asserts that man by nature is a fearful being & looks for a strongman who can protect them from dangers.

Hitler came to power by asserting that he will make Germany 'great again'.

COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY FORCE

Once in power, they target the minority & establish capitalist hegemony.

Laski states that "fascism is the last attempt of capitalist to save themselves"



Thus, the state emerges as a tool in the hands of capitalist class.

Gramsci ~~believed~~ failed in bringing a revolution in Italy. He believed that the reason for this was that the state acted as ideological state apparatus at the hands of capitalism.

The nature, function, working of capitalism is discriminatory & targeted against a certain section of the people. It calls for a strong state or state that creates violence against the individual.



Que.5

The emergence of new actors and social forces are forcing a rethink of the overdeveloped thesis of the state. Critically evaluate (200 words, 15 Marks)

Post colonial school of thought has emphasised that though formally, colonialism ended way back in 1940's & 1950's yet, its ill-effects can be seen even today.

HAMZA ALVI has given the concept of overdeveloped states for countries of South Asia. She believes that the kind of state introduced by the former colonizers doesn't resemble to their countries for eg In India, British introduced Sedition by section 124 A of IPC but that is not present in their home state. Thus, the state in S. Asia is extremely power



and uses unjustified violence against the citizens.

Gayatri Spivak has asserted that "Can the subalterns speak?" because she believes that the colonialism as well as its explanation, reasons, consequences of it have been defined by the elitist school of history.

Dependency theorists like A. G. Frank & Samir Amir have criticised neo-colonialism which has resulted in the dependency of IIIrd world on Ist world.

for eg African countries export raw materials like coal & import finished steel.



This has resulted into the creation of "core" & periphery state"

Till WWII, political theory was by & large dominated by western scholars. However after decolonialisation & empowerment of the III world due to rise in income has resulted in alternative paradigms to mainstream theory by subaltern school, post colonial school, neo marxists etc.

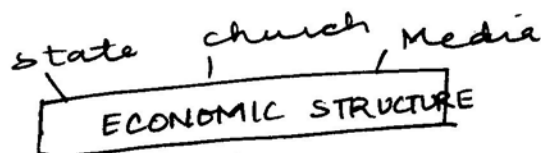


Que.6

The state is based on power relations between classes. Comment
(200 words, 15 Marks)

The above statement reflects Marxists theory of state. Marx believed that state is an instrument at the hands of capitalist class.

Marx as per scientific analysis of state, has emphasised that the rich, powerful, wealthy constitute the basis structure who then determine the super structure.



The state is an INSTRUMENT at the hands of capitalists and thus has to be ended.



Marx ideal society, i.e. communism is a classless & stateless society.

Marxists like Lenin & Mao tried to bring communist revolution in their country to end the power relation between capitalists & class.

Rosa Luxemburg believed that capitalism is imperialist and only a strong revolution can end the exploitation.

The Cultural school of Marxism on the other hand believed that the real motive of Marx was liberation/emancipation & not the revolution.

Structural Marxists or followers of Mature Marx focus more on class struggle.



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Althusser in his book "For Marx" has defended Marxism from the charge of crude economic determinism that was focussed on liberation of individual



Que.7

Neoliberalism as the mode of existence of contemporary capitalism is in systemic crisis. Discuss. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Neo liberalism is based on market fundamentalism. The origin of neo liberalism can be traced back to WASHINGTON CONSENSUS that emphasised on liberalism, privatisation & globalisation. Its zenith can be traced to the origin of WTO in 1995. It is essentially linked to the TINA factor → There is no Alternative

Neoliberals like "Robert Nozick" in his book "Anarchy, state & utopia" has emphasised on the fact that progressive taxation is a form of bonded labour. It forces the rich to pay the taxes for the poor in a situation where benefits don't even



reach to the individual.

They believe in the "Atomistic man". Thus, whatever man possesses is solely because of his own contribution and the state / society has no contribution in it. As a matter of fact, man is not liable to pay back the society

Robert Nozick supports a night watch man state which provides only two essential functions:- law & order & police functions.

Hayek believes that planning is a road to serfdom because the market is like a big nervous system which operates on its own. Thus, planning is bound to fail.



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This philosophy was seen during the times of Ronald Reagan & Manmohan Singh. But it is in crisis at present. This is evident from OCCUPY WALLSTREET MOVEMENT & Thomas Picketty's 1% vs 99%.

It challenged the growing inequalities, concentration of wealth in the hands of few.

Even in India, the government is facing backlash because of the growing inequality because of Global Financial crisis 2008 & the recent COVID-19.

COVID exposed the lacunas in the healthcare system. Thus, we see the revival of welfare state who focusses on increased expenditure on education & healthy individuals eg NEP 2020, PMA yashwanth Bhatt.



Que.8

Marx's Communism is not simply a utopia presented in vacuum, it is a political programme meant to critique the social conditions of Capitalism. Elaborate. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Marx is one of the greatest philosophers of all times. It is because of him that the entire world was divided into poles between 1945-1991 by the Iron Curtain i.e. USA led capitalists & democratic world & USSR led communist block.

With the breakdown of USSR in 1991, the capitalists world rejoiced & declared the communist world as utopia. Some like Francis Fukuyama even propounded the end of Ideology thesis.

However, it is to be noted that Marxism is not dead. It is said that a single Marxist is a threat to capitalists all around the world.



If capitalism is hegemony,
then Marxism is counter hegemony.
Gramsci believed that intellectuals
play a pivotal role in exposing
the ills of capitalism.

Though at present a classless
& stateless society would
appear to be a utopia, but
it is to be noted that
Marx was interested in
emanicipation of bourgeoisie.

Marxist critique of capitalism
has made capitalism humane

Due to the strong threat that
~~facede day for~~ Marxists posed
to capitalism, it reformed.

Welfare state, social reforms,
social liberals recognised the
paradoxes present in capitalism
& suggested a state that
works for welfare of people.



At present, since majority of the countries are democratic & workers are in majority. Thus none of the politicians can ignore the workers.

Thus, despite being criticised as a theory presented in vacuum, it continued to challenge capitalism & remains relevant.

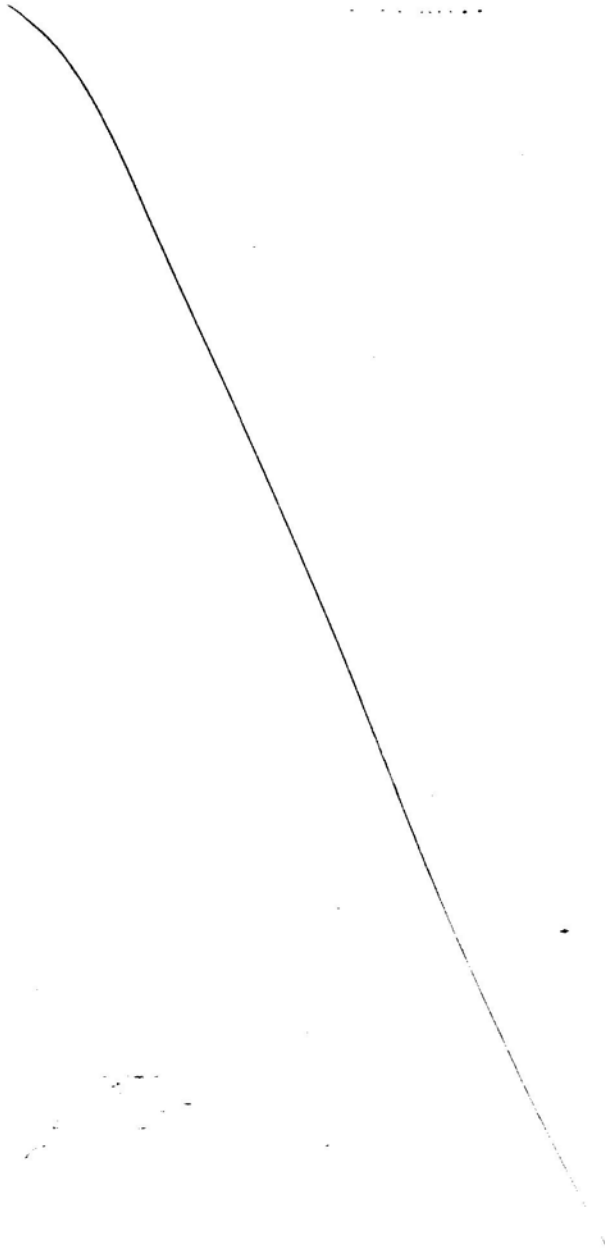


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Space for Rough Work





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Space for Rough Work



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