

PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

TEST 1

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes**Max Marks: 120**Name: Rishabh ChoudharyTest Submission Date: 13/11/21

Email Address: _____

Instructions:

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



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 and philosophy as said by Whithead as but a footnote to Plato and Aristotle.

Political Thought

① It is ideological approach towards understanding the political life, means of government & its institution.

② Political thought as said by Aristotle is about how we ought to live.

eg of political thought can be understood from Aristotle's Politics, Hobbes's Leviathan.

Political Theory

① Theory deals with the different ways to express and interpret political thought.

② Political theory devise the ways and means for organization of society.

eg of political theory as historical, Normative and as seen recently behavioural Methods.



Political philosophy deals with the Normative Question about the ways of government, its Nature, Scope and legitimacy of its institutions.

Political philosophy has been from Ancient Greece has developed into many different ideologies and theories like Republicanism, divine Rights, social contract, limited government etc.

Political ideology is derived from political thought. it Primarily deals with the social organisation, economic system of production & distribution.

earlier in medieval times the divine Rights



of the king was prominent ideology but with advent of Age of enlightenment, the rise of modern political ideologies like liberalism, which is progressive view towards societal reforms. Socialism, Marxism etc.

Political science had long been a subject that dealt with philosophical aspect and devised unverifiable Normative theory, but with David Easton & Robert Dahl defining political science into behavioural & post behavioural method had significantly put Political science in the 'Science'

Category:

As it is said Political science starts and ends with state, political thought, philosophy, theories and ideologies had long discussed and deliberated on how we ought to live for good life.



Que.2

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

Socrates who is the teacher of Plato was considered by him to be the wisest Man.

The theory of knowledge given by Socrates had focused on the questions of life that matters the most for living a good life.

As Socrates describes, the purpose of life is not to have a life of ignorance, ~~to~~

but of constant examination and introspection about what constitutes a good life.

Socrates had been credited to give a theory of dialectics to devise the

truth. He mentioned thoughts and emotions unexamined are least likely to be true,



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without examination, All deductions are merely absurd and false.

According to him, dialectics i.e. Rational debate and discussion to falsify the wrong thought would eventually leave only pure truth, wisdom for the man.

That wisdom, search for truth he mentioned as worth living for, ~~be~~

He even drank poison to prove that a good life is a life based on

Principles and Not merely self-interest as prevalent at the time seen in

Sophist tradition of knowledge.



Plato in his book — 'The Republic' had beautifully written his dialectical discussions with Socrates among others to devise that

The knowledge is mightier than all, Nothing can ensure a good life for one and all state more than a ruler full of knowledge (philosopher king).

Aristotle was also inspired by Socrates and had written diverse subjects like politics, ethics, drama etc with the Socratic thought of knowledge.

In today's world full of consumerism (unidirectional man) The quote places a pivotal question upon all to introspect, what sort of life is worth living?

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 is considered as the father of liberalism for his progressive view on the societal problems of the time referred as Age of Enlightenment.

John Locke has given the 'two treaties of government' a magnum opus where that describe the state of ~~to~~ nature, which is as contradictory it can get to the hobbesian state of Nature.

Locke has affirmed that the man is social Animal and in state of Nature there would be peace, Harmony and man would



be respectful to words rights of other's
for the sake of his own rights.

Locke derived that morality is a
Natural virtue, Man stands moral by
Nature.

But at the same time for ensuring
that rights of each man are protected
there is a need for a state to provide
protection to the ~~water~~ rights of all
men, in a equal and fair manner.

In his theory of Rights gives man
an unalienable rights to life, liberty
and property.



Locke has put a great deal of emphasis on property and affirmed that property is the source of satisfaction for men and cause of its motivation to work, hence one should never be deprived of his property.

His views were inspired by Aristotle's justification for Right to Property.

Though Locke is criticised by Marxist scholars for being the Representative of Bourgeois class and justifying Property Rights without substantial evidences.

Locke has emerged as a intellectual colossus, shaped the modern world and influenced the constitution of first modern democracy (i.e. USA) and later on throughout the world.



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 who is often referred as 'True
child of Renaissance' for his Realistic
and secular approach towards man and 'Prince'.

In his book 'The prince' who Machiavelli
said to become a political entrepreneur
and do what ought to be needed.

His advices to the Prince, who historically
been considered as a man of great
virtue and divine Representative of God

is simple and straightforward that
do what is in National Interest. (Raison d'
etat), National Interest is supreme.



his directions Caution's price to be vigilant as in order to promote his National Interest he is inevitably has to face people who are not virtuous at all, who can go towards any means to win.

Machiavelli suggest Prince to be 'Brave like a lion and cleaver like a fox'. to be ready to deal with the lion's and foxes around in the means justified to win.

He had also gone ahead and distinguished moodality of Prince from the common man, he dictates that for prince to act moral is to act in the National interest and Not according to the Philosophical Moral ideals.



Machiavelli wanted a strong Italy, that can reclaim it's glory amidst of the periculous ~~corrupt~~ corruption going in the Roman church that was emptying Italy from inside.

Machiavelli was criticised by George Holland Sabine by saying that 'he is narrowly dated and narrowly located'.

He was also criticised by MK Gandhi by affirming that Morality is the center piece of political life, British imperialism and facism is the cause of Machiavellian thoughts.

To understand machiavelli, it to sense the deep sense of patriotism. As held by Harold Laski - "in his realism, is his idealism"



Que.5

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

Thomas Hobbes is considered as first modern Political thinker for giving the theory of Sovereignty.

In the midst of Puritan Revolution in England, Thomas Hobbes has seen anarchy, Rule of Recklessness when the king was publically executed.

his concern emerged to establish a state where law and order can prevail and people can be forced to be ~~be~~ peaceful for their own sake.



Hobbes has written his magnum Opus — 'Leviathan' where he has given the political theory based on egoistic nature of man and a social contract to establish peace.

Hobbes states that by scientific method of Resolutive compositive deduction the Nature of man is universally egoist driven by desire, passion, appetite and Not by Reason.

In order to establish that man remains within the limits of peaceful means, there is a need for Leviathan (An all powerful King) ~~with~~ ~~whose~~ with whom the citizenry will have to come to a social contract.



by surrendering all their power except an absolute Right to Life.

The Leviathan is an state absolutist that would protect the life and be the sole sovereign towards its subjects.

Hobbes theory is landmarked towards establishing supremacy of state over religion and providing a contract for a society.

He has been criticised by Macpherson by stating that 'Hobbes' individualism is the Recipe for Absolutism'.

In the book 'Sexual Contract' Carole Pateman also criticised Hobbes for being male dominated and reducing women to the shackles of patriarchy.

Hobbes ^{is} ~~was~~ the inspiration for political philosophers for all ideologies as rightly stated by Karl Marx - "he is father of us all"



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)

Ans

As stated by Aristotle - 'golden mean is the golden rule of life', the above statement is the reflection of Aristotle's approach towards realism moderating the idealism inhibited in Platonic philosophy.

In his book Republic Plato has given the account of idealistic theory of state ruled by philosopher king, with theory of communism of property & family.

Plato has given more emphasis on ideas than reality as seen from his theory of 'Allegory of cave'.



Aristotle who was the greatest disciple of Plato had been contentious about his ideas for the fact that he believed Reality and ideas are interlinked. Hence Plato's theory is inherently flawed and not practicable in Real Life.

He held that though Plato is Right, but his solution to the problem is like a Medication worse than the disease itself.

he held that philosopher king is practically not possible because of corruptible Nature of Power, rather he preferred Rule of Law and stated - 'A law by Reason, is excellent than a man of passion'.

He criticised plato for his theory of Communism, ~~was~~ vouching for property, stating that property is the source of satisfaction for men.

He held that family is a time tested institution and communism of family is a despotic idea.

This is the context where Aristotle held that 'dear is plato but dearer is the truth'.

Though he is considered as a greatest disciple critique of plato but surely he had given virtuous ideas by Reforming plato's theory.

As said by whitehead, whole western philosophy is but footnote to plato & Aristotle.

Que.7

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

John Locke who is considered as father of liberalism has given his treatise of civil government for propagating the individuals Rights.

Possessive individualism refers to the sense of Atomistic man, stating that 'all men know what is best for thyself'. Each man has a solemn right to his destiny and fate.

In the treatise of civil government, Locke had bestowed man with the unalienable Right to Life, liberty & property.



He justified that Nature is bestowed with Morality and man is a social animal, even in state of Nature men would behave in a civil manner respecting the rights of fellow men as in the ~~fear~~ fear of losing their own Right.

He upheld that Property is source of satisfaction and Motivation for each man and no man can be made to forcefully stripped from his property,

He further stated the property is equivalent to life of a man.

for justifying Property and liberty he is
been considered as a proponent of
positive individualism par excellence.

he is a

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Que.8

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

Plato who is considered as father of western philosophy has given immensely valuable ideas for the inspiration of the Creed of philosophers.

Plato held that 'state is individual writ large', he stated that as different men has different characteristics every state held its own characteristics, with each form of government defines the scope of good life for its citizens, he held that whatever arose the leaders like, the effect will percolate towards the bottom



enhancing the life and satisfaction of its citizenry.

He has thus, given a theory of philosopher king to be the virtuous king who can

ensure good life for all its citizens.

Plato had given a rigorous training requirement via his theory of education for philosopher king for the ~~educat~~ education of more

than 50 years.

Plato thus held that the virtue of the society will be the sense of justice that is of functional specification (i.e. based on duties of one's self) will be held by the philosopher king.



Some thought can be seen in the words of Sri Aurobindo who stated that India is destined to be the state of spirituality as nature has bestowed Materialism in British, ethics in Romans, India is by Nature a home to spirituality and universal Brotherhood (vaishnav kutumbakam)

Plato is also sometime criticised for been an enemy of open society as seen in the words of Karl Popper, but the sense of space and time is missing in such criticism.

Plato had been the golden standard for philosophy as Edmund Burke stated Plato is philosophy, philosophy is Plato.

Space for Rough Work

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3. "The law of nature is the basis of all morality". In the light of the statement explain Locke's theory of rights.
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.
5. Hobbes's political theory is based on psychological egoism and the social contract. Discuss
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.
7. Locke is the proponent of the doctrine of possessive individualism par excellence. Elaborate.
8. "Like men, like State; governments vary as the characters of men vary....." - Plato. Critically Evaluate.



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Tips for Writing Good Answers:-

1. *Read the question carefully and at least 3-4 times.*
2. *Note down concepts, facts, examples, keywords related to the question.*
3. *Draw a rough outline of the flow.*
4. *Pay adequate attention to the introduction and conclusion.*
5. *Introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it.*
6. *Conclusion must summarize your response to the question.*
7. *Make sure answer is*
 - a. *Logical and coherent*
 - b. *Clear connection between sentences and paragraphs.*
 - c. *Written correctly giving adequate compatibility to your expression, style and presentation*
 - d. *Do not exceed the word limit*
 - e. *Write neatly*
 - f. *Underline points you wish to emphasize.*