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Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 1

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: SHAKTI DUBEY

Test Submission Date: 12/07/2022

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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Overall Remarks:

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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)

The word "Politics" has been derived from Greek word — Polis meaning city sense. This can be understood in two sense —

Traditional sense — as told by Aristotle that the public sphere of human life is part of politics

Contemporary sense — Traditional notion was challenged by Feminist like Carole Hanish who postulated that personal is political

Various disciplines in politics :-

- ① Political Thought
- ② Political theory
- ③ Political philosophy
- ④ Political ideology
- ⑤ Political science.

Political thought — This gives a schematic reflection of politics as emanating from human capacity to think. It

forms the base of political theories and philosophy as it provides the basic concepts, terminologies and language of political theory.

There are two traditions of political thought i.e., western and eastern, but contemporary politics is totally based on concepts from western tradition (Eurocentric).

Political theory - It is largely dependent on political thought for its basic tools like - concepts, terminologies, etc., or we can say political theory is more broad and generalised for political thought. These are also categorised in two types

(i) Normative Theory (ii) Empirical theory
both are interdependent i.e., normative theory recommendations are based on empirical observation

Political Philosophy - It is premised on Normative, abstract and Universal question of political science that what ought to be, it forms a major portion of political thought but whole of political



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thought is not philosophy. Plato is known as Father of Political Philosophy. Political Ideology - It provides for idea, doctrine, principles, myths and symbol of governance, there are several ideologies like - Anarchism, Monarchy, democracy, etc.

Political Science - It is one of the Oldest discipline, which can be traced back to Greek.

Aristotle is known as Father of Political Science and he established that political Science is a master science.

As Maitland said - "Whenever I look at Question paper titled Political Science, I'm more troubled by title than by question"

Hence, we can deduce that here the term science is not used in literal sense, yet scientific methods like empirical method adopted by Aristotle or resolutive compositive method provided by Hobbes - makes the normative claims of political philosophy more scientific

Que.2

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

Socrates is known as father of ethics.
Ethics is a political philosophy that deals with what ought to be, instead of focussing on what actually is.

Philosophy means love for knowledge and importance of knowledge and idea in Socrates theories cannot be negated. Hence he is also known as Father of Philosophy.

"Unexamined life is not worth living"

This statement comes in light from Socrates "Theory of knowledge"

Pre-socratic ~~world~~ thinkers gave importance to physical environment or matter. Socrates brought into light that it is not important to know what constitutes life, rather what constitutes good life.



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A good life is one which is virtuous and that can be only through the help of knowledge. Similarly Socrates also mentions that "knowledge is virtue"

He provides for a distinction between real knowledge and the knowledge that we consider as real.

Real knowledge is unshakeable and deduced from reason, while the other is shakeable and can be called as opinion / illusion.

Man must strive to gain knowledge which is possible through:-

(i) Dialectics

(ii) He says real wisdom lies in knowing that I know nothing

(iii) Man should not be ignorant and arrogant

Because the main purpose of human life is Eudaimonia (happiness) it is only possible through knowledge

which comes from reason and reason lies within ourselves, in our soul because - soul is a repository of reason.

Hence Socrates says that a life without knowledge is not a good life and therefore not worth living.

This theory of knowledge formed the basis of political philosophy of Plato. Plato derived his theory of Idea based on Socrates theory of knowledge, and he also used it to justify his institution of philosopher king.

Socrates is correctly called as the wisest man on earth by Oracle of Delphi as he provided for rational and moral basis of life through the concept of knowledge.



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 known as father of liberalism he is the first thinker to talk about the limited state giving primacy to rights of people.

As Aski says —

"Every thinker is a child of his time" so, is Locke — he belonged to a very stable period of British history, he has observed the peaceful transfer of power from king to Parliament (Glorious Revolution) and hence due to such situation he developed a quiet balanced view of everything

Locke has also relied on the tradition of social contract, and hence he used the hypothetical concept of state of Nature and later propounded his theory of Right

Locke is proponent of Natural rights

We know that rights are of two types

(1) legal rights - derived from state and hence individual has no right against the state

(2) Natural rights - derived from reason and state has no authority to take away the Natural right of individual though.

Locke gave the concept of Theory of Rights based on Natural right but Hobbes was the 1st thinker to bring the concept of Natural right though he was not the defender of Natural right as power

Using the hypothetical concept of state of Nature - Locke used the concept of enlightened self interest i.e. in a state of Nature man is not guided only by passion (as mentioned by Hobbes) rather the person is rational enough to take care of others interest

Hence, Locke is of view that Reason and passion in Man in the state of



Nature is balanced.

Due to certain inconvenience in state of Nature man creates a state, but does not surrender their natural rights

ie - Right to life

Right to liberty

Right to property

He classified these three rights as natural right, which is inalienable and cannot be taken away even by the state.

Hence, it is right to call Hobbes as the Father of Liberalism as he limits the power of states and is of view that

"Sole purpose of the commonwealth created is to take care of the life, liberty and property of man"

Hence, he designates the state as a mere night watchman.



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 known as father of Political realism. He is one of the most difficult thinker to understand and also one of the most criticised figure in western political theory.

He belongs to an era which is regarded as dawn of the civilisation i.e.,

Medieval age was coming to an end and modern age was on rise.

lastly - "Machiavelli is a child of Renaissance"

and, hence whole of Renaissance is observed in Machiavelli.

Machiavelli theory of Politics :-

(i) Machiavelli says that politics is a game of power i.e., he gives power view of politics.

(ii) According to him politics and Ethics are two different disciplines and



hence should not be interlinked.

He tells that the Prince is entering politics and hence must be aware of two things :-

(1) Nature of profession - it is only lust for power and has nothing to do with ethics

(2) Nature of man - since in politics prince has to interact with people.

Machiavelli says

"One who tries to find goodness in every profession will ultimately come to grief"

hence, the prince needs to be a cold blooded man, it is more important for a prince to be feared than to be loved. because politics is not a profession of goodness and not everyone is virtuous.

In this regard machiavelli also mentions about Nature of man

Machiavelli says

"Man is selfish, coward, fickle minded
fearful and avaricious by nature"

↳ Man is utilitarian, hedonistic and
self centered who is dominated
by passion

Hence, Man is not to be trusted.

Since Machiavelli is a product of
Renaissance he has a very practical
view of human nature and he isn't
calling it bad, rather calls this as
Natural.



Que.5

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

Hobbes belonged to a very troubled phase of British history, he has observed Spanish Armada and the Puritan Revolution (1641) which was a bloody revolution.

These conditions made Hobbes very critical of everything around him and hence he gave a pessimistic view.

Hobbes is an Absolutist i.e. he gives absolute powers to state because he had observed that lack of order in society can lead to chaos.

Hobbes has used the hypothetical concept of state of nature in order to describe the importance of state. As in state of nature man has full liberty, but he is unable to make use of that because every man has passion which make them have lust for



power, property, etc and hence this makes state of Nature a state of war of all against all

Hobbes has used the resolutive composi-
tive method to deduce that the motion of particles in human brain leads to various emotions and passion

According to him man is hedonistic i.e., pleasure seeking by nature, therefore anything that maximises pleasure and minimises pain tends to attract man, this makes the man selfish and self centred. But as in state of nature everyone is individualistic, hedonistic, utilitarian hence even in presence of unlimited liberty, this life is lousy, poor, benighted and short due to the psychological egoism in man which is universal in nature



hence for sake of preservation of life and property (as they are two important source of pleasure for man) man creates state through social contract

Social contract is a contract of all against all where man surrenders all his rights to the state except the right to life & personal liberty in return for security of life.

Hence Hobbes political theory is totally based on psychological egoism of the individuals existing in state of nature and therefore we can say that state is just another instrument of utility for man - owing to its hedonistic characteristic & being an utilitarian.



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 known as father of Political Science since he used empirical method to substantiate his political theories and hence he calls political science as Master Science.

Aristotle is considered as greatest disciple of Plato as well as his greatest critic - It won't be justified to call him critic of Plato rather he is rectifying Plato's theory and concept to make it more acceptable, so it can be said that he is carrying Plato forward.

Aristotle himself says that

"Dear is Plato, but dearer is truth"

Emphasizing the difference as well as similarities that we shared with Plato



Similarities :

- (i) Both Plato and Aristotle belong to Socratic tradition i.e., gave importance to idea and reason for a good / virtuous life
- (ii) Both were against sophists
- (iii) For them Individual is prior to state
- (iv) Believed in Inequality i.e., Natural
(Plato's → Theory of metals
Aristotle's → Theory of slavery)

Differences

- (i) Plato is an idealist, while Aristotle is pragmatic
- (ii) Plato is radical, while Aristotle is conservative
- (iii) Plato believes in gender equality (He talks about philosopher queen) while Aristotle even denies citizenship to women
- (iv) Plato used deductive method, while Aristotle used inductive

(V) Plato believes in extreme ideas while, Aristotle believes in theory of Golden means / moderation

(VI) Plato is a perfectionist i.e., believes in ideal institution of philosopher king while Aristotle, believes in moderation

(VII) Plato says monarchy / rule of philosopher king is best, According to Aristotle Rule of law is best practicable

Hence, we can say that despite having many similarities Aristotle went on to rectify Plato and it is correctly said that

"Entire western political thought is foot note of Plato & Aristotle"

— Whitehead



Que.7

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

Locke is known as the father of liberalism, he is an "individualist
out and out", i.e., Locke gives
primary to individual over state.

Locke in his theory of natural
rights mentioned that man has
three natural rights which are
inalienable i.e.,

- ↳ Right to life
- ↳ Right to liberty
- ↳ Right to property

He uses right to property in two
sense -

- (i) Inclusive sense - according to him
right to life, liberty & property are all
property of man
- (ii) specific sense - where he talks
about only "Right to property"



According to Locke — Right to property is a natural right and the common-wealth i.e., the state has been created to take care of property and not deprive man of his Right to property.

Right to property is considered Inalienable by Locke because — property is product of one's labour and hence it is a part of man's personality and man has full authority and right over the product of his labour.

Not only his product ^{of} labour rather man has right over the product of labour of his slaves and horses and hence state cannot deprive man from his property.

Locke also provides for limitation on right to property :-

- (1) labour limitation — man only has right over that property which is product of his labour.



- (i) No one can deprive man of his right to property
- (ii) No one has right to destroy the property.

Hence, Hobbes established the importance of property in life of man, hence he is also regarded as father of Possessive Individualism and from this we can also infer that Hobbes is representative of capitalist/middle class.

Que.8

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

Plato is known as father of political philosophy, because he emphasised on the interrelation between politics as well as ethics.

Plato is a highly imaginative, romantic, utopian as well as radical thinker

Karl Popper - "Everyone is either platonist or anti-platonist, None can be Non-platonist" this signifies the importance Plato holds in the western political thought

The above given statement can be understood in the light of another statement given by Plato i.e.,

"State is Individual writ large"

By this he meant that state is nothing but larger manifestation of individual i.e., if state is a capital letter, individual is a small letter.



Hence, principle applied to man at individual level that's Ethics can be applied to state at larger level i.e. Politics.

Hence he establishes that if we want to create an ideal state, we must focus on creating virtuous individual, because state is nothing but larger part of individual.

So we can related the character of an individual to the nature of the state. Hence where people are rational, knowledgeable, virtuous then state is a better governed entity it is because the nature of state depend on the nature of individual and varies accordingly.

This is the reason why Plato has been called as Father of political philosophy since



he relates, ethics with politics.
and hence advocates for
critical governance.