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Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 2

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: SHAKTI DUBEY

Test Submission Date: 27/07/2022

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:	

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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,



Que.1

Inspired by philosophy, Hannah Arendt warned against the dangers of philosophy obfuscating the plurality and reality of our shared world. Comment (200 words, 15 Marks)

Hannah Arendt is considered as one of the most influential philosopher of 20th century and is the first woman to be ~~given~~ the professor of political science. She prefers to be called a theorist instead of philosopher because ~~according~~ Unlike Plato who emphasised only on Ideas, Hannah Arendt gave primacy to praxis (Action) over Poiesis (Thinking/contemplation)

In her words

"On this earth Men and not Man live"

By this she has signified the importance of plurality and according to her true freedom can only be



exercised when plurality is respected and everyone is treated equally.

Hannah Arendt is a proponent of plurality and equality in order to ensure freedom. In this regard she stands in opposition to Plato's view who has over emphasised on the concept of idea and hence has divided the individuals based on his myth of Metals which denies them equality.

This can also be seen in contrast to Aristotle's theory of slavery also where according to him some individuals are born to work and hence slavery according to him is a time tested institution.



Though Hannah Arendt has also given importance to ideas (vita contemplativa) yet she considers that philosophy as has been interpreted by earlier philosophers hinders the plurality that

exist and therefore denies equality which leads to distortion of the reality, because man does not live in isolation

instead real man lives in a society and according to her concept of freedom, the real freedom lies when huge differences exist between the people, yet there is no fear that their voice will be silenced and

hence she talks about celebrating plurality and imparting equality

Que.2

"Politics is the place and activity of shared communication based on the distinct perspectives of equal human beings". HANNAH ARENDT.
Comment (200 words, 15 Marks)

Hannah Arendt is considered as a very complex thinker who cannot fit into any one school of thought, yet we can place her as a proponent of Civic Republicanism.

She is a supporter of Deliberative and participatory democracy, this is in line with other political philosophers of western tradition like — Aristotle (according to him polity is the best form of Government), Machiavelli (in this book discusses he talks about Republican form of Government), and Locke (who gave theory of Democracy) and Mill (who talks about Representative Government).



In her words -

"Man is a zoo politikon"

Through this statement she revives the Hellenistic / Ancient tradition

since Aristotle also mentions the same thing that

"Man by Nature is a political Animal"

According to Hannah Arendt concept of Freedom - real freedom lies where man is allowed to participate and has freedom of speech because for her speech is action.

Politics is a public sphere and arena of shared communication where people with different perspectives come together and express their views. She prioritises the freedom of speech and expression, because contradiction of



views, discussions and debate leads to the development of true personality of man. - This can be seen as a continuation of Socratic tradition of Dialectics.

When people with differences are allowed to speak without the fear that their voice will be silenced, their true personality development takes place. She believes in plurality of truth that is truth can have different perspective and once we participate in debates and discussion we develop our thinking ability.

Hence Hannah Arendt is a supporter of Democracy, but she understands the complication of real world hence she considers Representative Democracy as best practicable.



ie.3

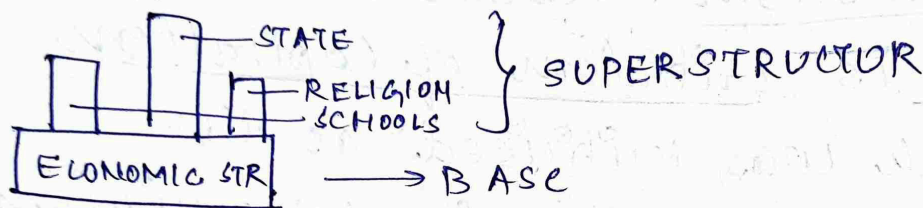
Gramsci saw capitalist state as being made up of two overlapping spheres, a political society and a civil society. Elucidate (200 words, 15 Marks)

After Marx, Gramsci is considered as the most important thinker in Marxism. Marxism as an ideology is criticism of Capitalism which was criticised as the Theory of economic determinism.

Gramsci hence revised the concepts of Marxism that attracted criticism to make it more relevant and acceptable. Marx theory was based on his concept of Historical Materialism - according to which the basic structure of the society is Economic structure and other factors like state, religion, etc all depend on the Economic structure and one who controls the mode of production controls

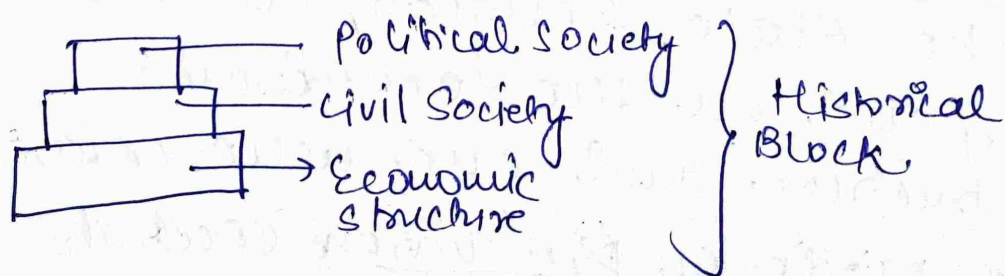
the society, since according to Marx, superstructures are reflection of basic structure —

This led to criticism of Marxist Theory of Historical Materialism



Marxist Perspective

Gramsci came up with different perspective of history which was inspired by Benedetto Croce's theory of History who emphasised the role of cultural factors on the shaping of society, therefore Gramsci came up with three-layered model, which he called as Historical Block





According to Gramsci in order to control the mode of production there has to be change in the entire block and not just economic structure.

He has explained the role of civil societies like religion, media, school, etc. that they act as first line of defence and as a shock absorbers by preventing any change in the economic structure of the society and hence maintain status quo and they do so by manufacturing consent or Hegemony.

The Political society, on the other hand, i.e. state acts as a second line of defence and hence according to Gramsci for workers to control the society they must control the civil society by manufacturing counter hegemony, and hence Gramsci is the Theorician of Cultural Hegemony.



Que.4

"Gramsci gives us, not the tools with which to solve the puzzle, but the means with which to ask right kinds of questions". STUART HALL. Comment. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Stuart Hall was an editor and also author of several work on politics and society. In his work titled "Gramsci and US" he has tried explaining the importance of Gramscian way of thinking.

In words of Hall

"I don't say that Gramsci holds the answer or has the key to our present day problem but we must think our problem in Gramscian way which is different."

This shows the influence of Gramsci on Hall & Hall and Gramsci are relevant as ever.

Gramsci has given an overall different perspective towards looking



at Marxism, when he saw that the prediction made by Marx like - "with advancement of Capitalism, exploitation will increase and hence the need for Revolution will be Inevitable" seemed to be happening but never manifested into reality.

He looks at Britain which was then an advanced capitalist society but showed no sign of revolution, similarly Revolution that took place in Russia which was aka Communist Revolution led to dictatorship of Bourgeoisie class and not the worker class and also he understood that Dictatorship of workers will not lead to the overall development of the country in particular and world in general.



Hence he revised Marxism by bringing in the concept of Cultural hegemony and also pointed towards the importance of Organic Intellectuals in making the workers aware of their existence & exploitation which was contrary to Marx' idea where he denied the need of Intellectual class

Marx has also suggested a radical revolution by the workers which has to be sudden and violent in order to capture the state, but Gramsci divides this revolution into two parts - War of position (long protracted war) and War of Manoeuvre (sudden & violent)

Hence Gramsci's way of thinking changed the entire perspective of Marxism making it more practical



Que.5

"Religion is the opium of masses". - MARX. Discuss (200 words, 15 Marks)

No other thinker has the influence as that of Marx both in theory and practice. He not only effected the domestic politics but also had influence on the International politics

According to Karl Mannheim Theory of sociology of knowledge "Every thinker represents the interest of Particular class" and Marx represented the interest of Worker class.

The above statement

"Religion is opium of masses"

is used by metaphorical sense where he explains that just like opium helps the sick by giving instant relief by creating



a false sense of wellness similarly the religion in society creates a false consciousness among the workers because religion or for that matter any other institutions in the society like state are not independent of the capitalist class.

In words of Marx —

"It is not our consciousness that defines our existence, rather it is our existence that determines our consciousness"

by consciousness he means false consciousness / subjective consciousness, he has criticised Hegel's concept in this regard who says "state is march of God on earth"
According to him ~~Marx~~ Hegel is



spreading false consciousness among the people that religion state will come it's rescue ^{rather} ~~but~~ the state is an instrument of capitalist class and hence the workers should not expect Justice from state.

Hence he emphasises the need for development of objective consciousness, which means when workers are aware of their true condition and existence only then they will be able to realise their exploitation & hence take up arms against the state and lead a violent revolution and end their exploitation.



Que.6

Marxism consists of three ideas: Theory of history, Critique of capitalism and a vision of ideal society. Evaluate. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Marx is a socialist and he considers his socialism as a scientific socialism. Socialism is an ideology which is used in generic term which contains ideas like - communism, Guild socialism, etc. Marx is considered as a father of communism.

Marx socialist society is an utopian which has perfect equality (Absence of private property), perfect freedom (stateless society) and perfect happiness (i.e. end of Alienation).

Marxism is based on three components — Theory of history, Criticism of capitalism and his vision of an ideal society.

Marx theory of history is historical materialism according to which history is not just shaped by movement of idea as said by Hegel, but instead is shaped by class struggle and who controls the means of production. Using his base-superstructure model Marx has asserted that whoever controls the economic structure will control the society.

In this regard he has also shown the evolution of sources in the following way:-



According to Marx

"History of all hitherto existing
society is the history of
class struggle"

and this is based on his idea of

Dialectical Materialism ^{according} ~~that~~

to which every society moves forward by existence of contradiction between haves and have not and is based on three principles of - Unity of opposites, Negation of negation and Quantity changes to Quality will lead ultimately to the establishment of communism which according to Marx is an ideal society which is a classless and stateless society where perfect equality exist

According to Marx capitalist society are the worst type of society which leads to exploitation of workers since it is entirely based on Profit which has led to commodification of the workers and has alienated

man from himself which has become the cause of unhappiness among people, Thus society must strive to move towards communism



Que. 7

"The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way..." - J.S. MILL. Comment (200 words, 15 Marks)

Mill is considered as father of liberalism as he has explained the importance of freedom of speech and expression of the individuals.

Mill is a proponent of Negative liberty and hence talks about Minimal state.

Freedom for Mill can be seen in two sense - one is in individualistic sense and the other in public sense.

In words of Mill

"No state becomes great by dwarfing its own individual."

hence he emphasises the importance of freedom of individual because that leads to their development which in turn will lead to a better state. This is in continuity to the



thoughts of Plato according to whom
"State" is individual writ large

Mill is a proponent of liberty
and he prioritises three liberties
over anything else - i.e.,

Freedom of speech and expression
freedom to act according to one's
speech and freedom from
association

According to Mill, Man
should be given freedom to
act according to his will
because two tenets of freedom
according to him is ~~for liberty~~
plurality with equality

People should be allowed
to exercise their freedom in
presence of others because
only then will people be
able to exercise true liberty



because when people with differences come together and still they do not fear that ~~they~~ their voice will be silenced only then we will arrive at the real truth.

This concept of truth is seen as a continuation of Socrates tradition of Dialectics that debates and discussion leads to discovery of truth. He believes in plurality of truth i.e., there is more than one truth and everyone should be allowed to speak even if someone is wrong that person should also not be silenced because that will give us a chance to reestablish the truth and even in the lies we have some element of truth.



Que.8

Mill was a champion of democracy who failed to bring the idea of democracy to its logical conclusion. Critically examine (200 words, 15 Marks)

Mill is considered as a father of liberalism, who has also given the Theory of Democracy. Mill was a proponent of freedom of speech and expression and belongs to the tradition of Civic Republicanism.

He favoured direct democracy but understood that in the complex set up of Real world and hence considered ~~dem~~ Representative Democracy as the best practicable which has been in line with ideologies of Aristotle, Machiavelli, Locke, Hannah Arendt and others.

According to Mill Democracy is a hard earned privilege which should not be considered as a free gift to be distributed to all.



In this regard he was inspired by Alex de Tocquille, who talks about concerns over future of democracy and hence he suggest several ways to protect the future of democracy.

Mill analysed that there are two sources of harm of democracy one is the western world and other is the colonies. For colonies Mill says that

"Democracy is not for barbarians for them benevolent despotism is better"

Through this he shows continuity with Machiavelli according to whom democracy can be established in a society where individuals are virtuous.

For the challenge from western world Mill suggests certain reforms to democracy because according to him ideally democracy is rule of majority.



which can convert into tyranny of poor, uneducated, illiterate people. because majority of population in any country is poor, ~~un~~uneducated, etc and they will even overpower the opinion of intelligent educated, middle class which are in minority.

He therefore gives suggestion to go for weighted votes, plural voting, more powers to house of lords, Propotional representation system, open ballot & enfranchisement of women, this will ensure that the democracy does not convert in tyranny of uneducated worker class.

Due to these suggestions Ernst Barker calls Mill as a Reluctant Democrat who on one hand support freedom of speech & expression as well as participation while on other hand limits its scope. He says that Mill has used democracy as an end in itself and not as a means of empowerment of masses.