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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 3

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: SHAKTI DUBEY

Test Submission Date: 14/08/2022

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

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

State can be defined as a centralised law making, law enforcing, politically sovereign entity. To quote Jean Bodin

"Sovereignty is defined as the supreme authority over citizens and objects in the state"

Sovereignty is actually a legalistic concept that talks about the centre of authority in the state. In this regard we have two views - the pluralistic view that talks about multiple centres of authority and the monistic view that talks about single source of authority.

Monistic theory of sovereignty has been propounded by Hobbes and later developed by John Austin



Hobbes is the first modern thinker to give complete theory of sovereignty which emerged in the backdrop of his concept of state of Nature, where he emphasises on the need for a third party which is supreme authority to protect the rights of people and maintain order.

This Hobbesian theory of sovereignty has been further developed by Austin in his book "Lecture of Jurisprudence", he says sovereignty is central to state and is Absolute, perpetual, universal, inalienable and indivisible. This theory basically gives importance to positive law (i.e., law made by state) over any other law like Natural or customary law.

The significance of this theory is that it ended the chaos of Medieval



ere (i.e. Theory of two swords) and settled the debate in favour of state

Though Monistic theory has its own significance, it also has its own sets of drawbacks the major one being that it does not recognise international rule based order i.e., international law & peace and hence paves the way for war.

In this backdrop pluralistic theory of sovereignty emerged that gives importance to other sources of authority apart from state.

Sovereignty is central to the idea of state (as given by Montevideo convention) and hence assumes huge significance in political science.

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 a metaideology that advocates equality of opportunity and rights for women at par with men (Virginia Woolf). Advent of Feminism can be studied in form of three waves i.e.,

① First wave - socialist / liberal and Marxist feminism, second wave is like Radical feminism while the third wave can be equated with contemporary feminism.

Radical feminism is known as true feminism as it is given by women for women and is based on two important pillars i.e., Difference between Gender and sex (Simone De Beauvoir) and concept of Patriarchy (Betty Friedan)

Patriarchy is an ideology of overarching dominance of man, through which man establishes



control over sexuality and labour of women and in order to continue this dominance women have been deprived of economical independence and their mobility has been restricted by social norms.

Several feminist like Catherine Mackinnon call feminism as a social theory and hence avoids its politicisation, while others like Carole Hanisch have advocated the politicisation of social sphere.

To Quote Carole Hanisch

"Personal is Political"

because the psychological construct of personal sphere shape the public sphere of human life

Feminism criticise state as an instrument of patriarchy so much so that the laws made by the state are all intended towards perpetuation of patriarchy which needs to be addressed in order to end the suffering of women

Political laws are such that they propagate male dominance and female subordination which has led to symbolise power for males and powerlessness for females.

In order to tackle the issues of women and to save the overall society from wrath of patriarchy both men and women need to work towards its disregard.

Policy research paper by world bank shows that reservation of women in Panchayati Raj institution in India has led to increase in bargaining power of women and similarly led to their empowerment.

If we look at state's intervention in case of Bihar (India) where government banned Alcohol to avoid domestic violence has been a welcome step as this intervention by state has led to betterment of domestic condition of women.



Que.3

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

Liberalism is a theory of modern west and outside west only India is considered to be a liberal nation (Island of liberalism in ocean of authoritarianism). Liberalism is actually not just an ideology instead is a way of life.

This ideology is based on the concept of toleration (Isiah Berlin) and individuality of man. The theory of liberalism can be traced back to John Locke which has further been developed by Mill who are regarded as proponent of negative liberty or limited state.

The reason for the concept of limited state lies in their view that man is rationalist (has reason) and hence capable of thinking and doing the right thing and hence state is a



necessary (ie, required to maintain law and order) evil (restricts freedom & liberty). Hence they advocate Individualism as a central theme of liberalism.

Liberalism gives an aggregative view of society and talks about foundational equality or meritocratic society and does not deal with socio-economic equality. To quote Sumner

"The drunkard in gutter is where he is ought to be"

Hence, liberals favour the division of society based on labour. This shows resemblance with Greek tradition of Plato (Myth of metal) and Aristotle (Theory of slavery)

Liberalism is an oldest existing ideology and has undergone evolution throughout human history from classical liberalism to modern liberalism and neoliberalism



The Modern liberals emerged as a critic of classical liberalism which talks about laissez faire state and foundational equality and hence call for the intervention of state to maintain a level playing field.

Hence, Modern liberals advocate positive liberty and give the concept of welfare state which provides for socio-economic equality. The concept of welfare state has further been challenged as a propaganda to strengthen the state and hence in this backdrop neoliberal school of thought emerged which advocates rolling back of the state.

Thus, it won't be wrong to call liberalism as a view of thing because it hasn't remained consistent as a theory rather has evolved with changes in the world order which inspired Fukuyama to call Liberalism as "End of history".



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 derived from a word fascio meaning "bundle of rods" which signifies unity and solidarity. First fascio was established in Italy under Mussolini. To quote him

"Like the 19th century was age of democracy, socialism and liberalism the 20th century will be age of Authoritarian, collectivism & Totalitarianism"

Fascism is therefore authoritative and despotic rule of leaders who come to supp power through mass support.

Fascism is not regarded as an ideology because ideology is a coherent system of thought; instead Salvatore calls fascism as a Hodge-Podge ideology or in best way it can be defined as opportunism.

i.e., the fascist rulers have incorporated all those thoughts that justify their rule and legitimise their power.

Fascism is antirationalistic since it rejects reason and motivate people based on emotion hence it is more of a propaganda. Fascism is anti-democratic as it is a rule of elitist (a small section of people) and patriarchal as Mussolini says "Democracy is luxury of rich nations and parliament is a talking shop" and hence they believe in militaristic ultranationalist & imperialistic rule.

Hannah Arendt equates fascism with totalitarianism, as this calls for ~~one~~ total allegiance & obedience of individual towards state. In words of Mussolini

"Nothing above state, nothing outside state and nothing against it"

i.e., they call for sacrifice of human



at altars of state

Mahatma Gandhi calls fascism as manifestation of Machiavellianism he says once a mean has been compromised to achieve an end the tradition become taboo

Fascism in history has become a bad word with pejorative connotation i.e., there is tradition to link fascism with political opponent like the socialist equate fascism with capitalism while capitalist equate it with socialism

To Quote Laski

"Fascism is crisis of capitalism, it is an attempt by capitalists to protect themselves from socialist revolution"

Hence fascism can be called as a political pathology which is a despotic, authoritarian rule based on mass propaganda.



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)

state is central to our understanding of politics and society. To quote crabner

"Political science begins and ends with state"

Understanding the centrality of state in political science, several scholars and thinkers have come up with varied ideologies related to the states

One such dynamic view is related to the post colonial state these are called as prismatic societies (F.W. Riggs) which have been under the rule of colonial masters and emerged as independent state in backdrop of world war II

Though these states are decolonised yet are seen as under the influence of Neocolonialism and Ne imperialism (Kuan Nk-ximran)



There has been varied perspective with respect to post colonial state one such is the structural view by the Neomarxists like Hamza Alvi who gives the theory of overdeveloped state

The theory of overdeveloped state was given by him with respect to the third world countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan etc. According to this theory the states in the post colonial ~~area~~ societies are overdeveloped in contrast to their economic structure

This mismatch in political & economic structure can be attributed to colonial legacy because the masters focussed only on strengthening the political system in order to enhance their control over colonies and did not work towards the economic development.



So, if we look at the post colonial societies we see capitalist state in feudal societies like India while in west there is a capitalist state for capitalist society and so on.

But if we look at the contemporary situation the economy in the post colonial societies is also under rapid development with emergence of new actors like self help groups, farmers producer organisations, etc. and social forces like pressure group we see the socio-economic condition moving towards modernised structure.

Best example can be seen in form of Food processing industries where the agrarian economy has been linked to capitalist structure.

Hence, it's a time we reapproach the post colonial states with different perspective looking at the current scenario.



Que.6

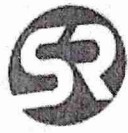
The state is based on power relations between classes. Comment
(200 words, 15 Marks)

State is a centralised law making, law enforcing, politically sovereign entity which is central to our understanding of modern day politics and societies. There has been varied perspective on state like state as necessary evil (Classical liberals), state as the one which hinders the hindrances (Modern liberals), state as an instrument of capitalist class (Marxist), etc.

Despite numerous views if we look at state is a properly organised entity which is based on power relation between classes. To quote Marx

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

Marx divides the world into two classes i.e., haves & have not & he talks about the conflict between the class and through



His historical materialism concept calls state as instrument of haves (or dominant class)

Later structuralists have come up with the concept of Relative Autonomy of state which talks about Bonapartist state i.e. a state where executive is so strong to be an instrument of any dominant class instead the state controls the dominant class as they need state for their stability

Relative autonomy talks about the duality of state where it if in case acts in favour of proletariats (by welfare measures) in the long run is working in the favour of the capitalist by suppressing the revolutionary tendencies of the proletariats

when the state acts as neutral in order to maintain its authority in long run it is



helping capitalism by saving it from criticism

Grausci also talks about the role of civil countries and the power they hold through which they establish cultural hegemony to favour the rule of state.

Hence if we look at the contemporary state it is a clear reflection of power relation b/w different classes in the society like — capitalists, proletariats, civil countries, etc. and hence it won't be justified to call it as an instrument of the dominant class working just in their favour.

Que.7

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

liberalism is the longest serving ideology which can be traced back to 17th century and attributed to scholars like John Locke, J.S Mill etc which has undergone evolution over the period of time to adjust with the demand of society.

Neoliberalism emerged as a critic of modern liberalism which favours 'positive liberty and welfare state'. To quote Hannah Arendt - "Positive liberty leads to totalitarianism", therefore Neoliberalism is based on the concept of rolling back of the state because ~~be~~ it considers that the idea of welfare state is overstretched.

Neoliberalism can be best defined using these three terms



i.e., liberalisation (decline in authority of state) privatisation (i.e., stocking back of state) and globalisation (Opening up of borders)
Hence Neoliberalism is a market fundamentalist policy which is pro capitalist

Neoliberalism is so widely accepted that it led to fukuyama calling it as an "End of history" or "end of ideological evolution of man" and it would not be an exaggeration to call so because liberalism is most widely accepted and as global ideology

But in the 21st century it has observed certain resentments like the 9/11 attack on the USA which is the best example of clash of civilisation as postulated by Samuel Huntington.



Also, the 2008 global financial crisis has raised eyebrows on the concept of liberalisation, globalisation, etc.

The recent case of COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the demerits of privatisation. Because countries with private health sector have suffered the worst. Also recently the world is seen to be moving from Washington consensus towards Cornwall consensus which talks about sustainable, equitable and resilient economies.

Thus, it won't be justified to call liberalism as the end of history because we can see that the neoliberalism which a procapitalist ideology is already under systemic crisis we are watching an increase in protectionism & trade wars which will ultimately threaten the capitalist order.



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)

Capitalism can be regarded as a mother ideology that has given rise to several other ideologies like communism, socialism, etc.

socialism ~~communism~~ is an ideology of Marx whose end goal is communism which is a state of perfect equality (classless society) perfect freedom (stateless society) and perfect ^{happiness} ~~freedom~~ (dealienation of man and emancipation) according to Karl Marx

communism has emerged in the backdrop of emergence of exploitative condition in capitalist societies to quote Karl Marx

"Capitalists Dig their own grave" which signifies the extent of contradiction that capitalism carries which will ultimately lead



to its destruction. Capitalism is a system based on profit and not on need. Marx highlights that money in capitalism is not a means to an end instead it is an end in itself.

Capitalism is a profit oriented system whose aim is to enhance competitiveness. In this regard Marx talks about real value and exchange value.

The exchange value is every single which acts as a profit for capitalist which has two implications - First it increases the bargaining power of capitalist and second it leads to increase in inequality.

Capitalism is a system where labour which is a part of one's personality and leads to self-actualisation becomes the reason for their exploitation.

Marx does not blame capitalist for this per say instead he says the system of capitalism is such competitive and ruthless that even if they want to be good they can't be.

The huge profit earned by capitalist is clevered from minimum wages given to the workers which results in low cost of production and hence makes their product competitive.

Capitalism causes innovation and the manufacturing is based on mindless needs. With advent of new technologies and coming up of new machines workers are even ready to work at less than required minimum wages leading to increase in their sufferings & exploitation.

Marxism has huge relevance in keeping capitalism humane else without criticism it would have become more exploitative and inhumane reducing man to just an object.