



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 5

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

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Test Submission Date: 02/Sept/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,

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



Que.1

What are human rights? Is there any hierarchy of human rights?

Explain the relationship between the protection of human rights and sustainable development goals. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Human rights are those rights which are available to person by virtue of being human and hence are considered to be universal. Human Rights is basically a post 2nd world war concept that emerged in the backdrop of atrocities on several section of society as observed in Germany under Hitler, USSR under Stalin, etc.

Human rights are available to all irrespective of their class, caste, gender, creed, etc and even their nationality i.e., it doesn't matter if the constitution of a country recognises the rights of human or not, it is still available to its citizen.

State is bound to protect it and in case of violation it calls for international action. Hence, Doctrine of Human Rights calls for international interference in domestic affairs of the nation.



Human rights are modern & secular version of natural rights and is a broader concept encompassing both natural as well as legal rights.

The most important characteristics of human rights are - Equality and nondiscrimination, Universality, Indivisibility, Inclusiveness & Permanence

- Human right can be categorised into several types like - moral rights, social rights, legal rights, economic rights, etc. and all are equally inherent to the dignity of a man, there's no such thing as a bigger right or lesser right. They are rather equally important to the overall development of a man.

Human rights create a conducive environment for all, leading to the fulfillment of the sustainable development goal by focussing on the principle of leaving no one behind.



fulfillment of the rights, empowers people to be able to live a dignified life leading to sustainable development.

The concept of Human Right is at times criticised by the leaders of third world country for being eurocentric.

The Asian value debate calls Human Right as an attempt of cultural imperialism which is totally based on western culture and hence cannot be imposed on third world countries.

This concept has been criticised by Amartya Sen who calls Asian value debate as a propagand to justify despotism because just like Immanuel Kant calls "Human Dignity" as categorical imperative there are certain basic human rights that has to be universally recognised in order to ensure inviolability of human dignity & individuality.



Que.2

How the term equality differs from equity? Discuss the various forms of equality and their relevance. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Equality in simple terms can be defined as "absence of privileges" but it is a contested and debated term in political science because of various dimensions and interpretations associated with it. There are several kinds of equality like legal equality, moral equality, etc.

The term equality can be equated with equal distribution of resource or equal treatment of all but this in real sense cannot lead to establishment of equality because people suffer from inherent disabilities and in this regard we see a contemporary concept of equity i.e., equality with fairness which focuses on providing level playing field to all and then compensating the one with inherent disabilities.



There are several theories of equality - the two extreme are the theory of classical liberal and the equality theory of Marxist

classical liberals advocate for equality of opportunity who believe in providing level playing field but does not believe in affirmative action. Instead they are of concept that "Drunkard in the gutter is

where he is supposed to be" hence they believe in meritocratic society. There are three conception of equality of opportunity

ie, - equality of welfare

equality of resources

equality of capabilities

Equality of resource welfare is an utilitarian concept based on the principle of greater happiness for greater number which was criticised by Rawls because it is violative of human dignity and hence in this regard Rawls gave the concept of



democratic equality where he talks about Affirmative action via difference principle which has been later criticised by Nozick who believes in minimal state.

Concept of equality of resource has been given by Dworkin who believes in equal distribution of resources based on "Ambition Sensitive and endowment insensitive due action along with concept of option and brute luck.

These concepts have been further criticised by Amartya Sen whose main focus is on providing equality of capability so that one can enjoy all other liberties and equalities provided to him/her.

Various concepts of equality has its relevance in ensuring that no one is left behind and there is overall & sustainable development of the society as a whole.



Que.3

Rawls's theory of justice consists of certain distributive principles for the basic structure of society. In light of this statement, critically evaluate Rawls's theory of justice as fairness. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Justice ~~deep~~ occupies central stage in political philosophy. To emphasise on its importance, Rawls has stated that— "Justice is the most important virtue of any social system just like truth is the first virtue of any school of thought".

Justice is an architectonic notion which is important to understand other related concepts like rights, equality, liberty, etc.

Rawls just like Plato is considered as the reference point for modern theorists just like Nozick, Amartya Sen, etc who can never overlook his contribution to the concept of justice.

Rawls' "Theory of Justice" (magnum opus) came in the context of his dissatisfaction with the existing theories of justice like classical liberal / utilitarian conc-



ep^t based on greater happiness for greater number and the Marxist theory of justice which focuses on equality of outcome

These are considered as violation of human dignity and individuality in this regard Rawls gave his theory of justice based on the procedure of social contract

Rawls considers social contract as the most rational procedure for arriving at principle of justice because social contract is a rational outcome of rational debate among people who are moral, rational and mutually disinterested in original position under the veil of ignorance.

This procedure is considered as rational because the principles are outcome of public reasoning and hence for Rawls justice is fairness where everyone equally participates in postulating the procedure



Through the process of social contract we arrive at three principles of justice to be followed in lexical order i.e. - Equality ~~to~~ liberty to all, equality of opportunity to all & Difference principle

Hence we incorporate the affirmative action (i.e. difference principle) based on basic structure of the society.

Rawls theory suffered from criticism by various school of thought like classical liberals (believe in survival of fittest), Neo liberal like Nozick (who believes progressive taxation is burdened labour), Marxist - because according to them welfare state is an utopia, social liberal like Amartya Sen whose major focus is capacity building and the communitarians who are against Rawls concept of original position.
Despite such criticisms - Rawls theory holds huge significance in study of justice which is considered as a revival of political philosophy.

Que.4

The policy of affirmative action aims at the politics of inclusion. Explain with reference to India's journey towards building an egalitarian society. (200 words, 15 Marks)

India is best described through the phrase "Unity in diversity". India is known for its huge cultural, social, geographical diversity which has exposed several vulnerable sections in the society like the people belonging to lower castes (SC, ST, OBC), minorities which can be religious as well as linguistics, women, children, transgenderes, etc.

These communities are loaded with inherent disabilities as a result of ancient socio-cultural notion which are still carried forward in several parts of the country.

But, India's development cannot be solely driven by any one community and hence in order to secure level playing field - Independent India



took several affirmative actions to ensure increased participation of the disadvantaged section of the society in the mainstream development

In this regard constitution of India provides for special affirmative actions in form of reservation for the socially and economically backward classes under A-16 & A-15

A-15 provides for special provisions is made for women, children and other backward classes in order to strengthen their position in society

Government of India also provides for reservation of 33% seats for women in the local self government in order to ensure that women participation increases in the political



sphere as well

Apart from constitutional protection certain statutory provision have also been made to ensure dignity of the down trodden like The Act for Transgender person, Prevention of atrocities against SC/STs, etc

These ensure that people are socially at an advantaged position. Several other initiatives like the Public distribution

system which ensure food security for all along with providing for important nutrients through mid-day meal schemes for student

Free and compulsory education of all for primary education signals toward capacity building at very young age making them capable to ensure a better livelihood.



Que.5

Dworkin's theory of equality is not limited to the realm of abstract theoritization, but aims at harmonizing the principles with concrete practices. Critically evaluate. (200 words, 15 Marks)

There has been several theories and concepts related to the term "Equality" we observe several interpretation and dimension associated with it

One such concept is the "Theory of equality of resources" given by Dworkin in order to ensure equality of opportunity

Dworkin is a social liberal and his major focus was on Redistributive Justice and hence his theory is also regarded as resource egalitarianism

Dworkin in his work "Sovereign virtue" has given his theory of Equality and stated that equality is the responsibility of the sovereign

He has used Equality in purely political sense with no philosophical or metaphysical orientation



In order to give his theory of Equality of resources he postulated a political fiction - where a group of people are stranded on an island when their ship is destroyed and want to start a life on the island, now in order to establish a just society he postulated the method of distribution of resources

Dworkin redistributive justice is based on the concept of market mechanism and insurance scheme

According to him there is no point in equal distribution of resource because people don't value what they don't need and hence he gives the principle of Ambition sensitive and endowment insensitive auction for distribution of resource i.e. give people what they need

In order to ensure fair distribution he gives concept of envy test i.e. people are happy with what they have and are not



jealous of others

Dworkin has similar views with Nozick that people should be held responsible for choices they make but not for all choice rather only the conscious and voluntary choices

In this regard he gives the concept of option luck and brute luck according to him state must compensate only in case of brute luck and this has to be a one time compensation

This theory of Dworkin has been criticised by Amartya Sen who states that, there is a need to focus on capacity building and people should not be held responsible for any choices be it conscious or involuntary because people incapable of taking right decision should not be overlooked

Despite the criticism, Dworkin faced his theory of Distributive justice tends to take middle path between two extreme concepts propounded by Rawls & Nozick



Que.6

Right is simply not reducible to a goal or a policy. In light of the statement explain Dworkin's view that rights are trump. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Lasch in his book "Grammar of Politics" has stated that rights are those social conditions that are required for a good life and without which man cannot seek to be at his best"

Just like any other normative concepts rights are also contested and debated due to several interpretations and values attached with them

Karal Vasak has given the evolution of rights in the form of generation like - 1st generation rights like civil and political rights, 2nd generation rights which includes social & political rights and 3rd generation rights like community rights.

There are several kinds of rights like social rights, legal rights, moral rights, etc.



Dworkin is a social liberal who gave us notion of Rights and called Rights as Trumps. he is a scholar of jurisprudence whose focus was on interpretation of the laws through his statement

According to Dworkin laws made by the states at times interfere with the rights of individual and when these are taken to the judiciary they have two options - interpret the laws in line with the principles of the legislature or ensure that no rights are violated

In this regard Dworkin talks about two kinds of rights i.e. strong rights/claims and weak rights or entitlements, and he is of the view that in no case the strong rights should be subjug-



ated under the interpretation of law

For him the rights should prevail over the laws in any condition and hence he calls "Rights are Trumps".

For Dworkin rights are not just a policy tool rather are non-negotiable part of human identity which are required for leading a good life

The tradition of rights are traced back to the concept of Natural rights as given by John Locke and in the contemporary times still holds significance in the form of human rights.



Que.7

Amartya Sen's capability approach is a moral framework. Discuss.
(200 words, 15 Marks)

Amartya Sen is a social liberal whose major focus has been on the capacity building of individual in order to ensure equality of opportunity and to create a just society.

Amartya Sen's approach is hence a realisation focussed approach because according to him no matter how equal is the distribution of resources or welfare if a person does not have capabilities to utilise it for their maximum benefit it won't lead to equality in real sense.

In this regard Amartya Sen has criticised Rawls theory of Justice because according to him Rawls focus has been purely on the procedure and he has ignored the



Substantive aspect. According to Rawls there are two important aspects i.e., Nih and Nyay and Rawls focus was solely on Nih, therefore his theory suffers from criticism of ~~the~~ not ensuring equity in real sense.

Amartha Sen's focus is on the substantive aspect and in this regard he is even against the concept of "equality of resources" as given by Dworkin because until the people are capable to optimise the use of resources no amount of equal distribution can help.

To consider illiteracy in any area - the need is to focus on imparting literacy and not distributing educational resources to people like books, stationary, etc.



Hence, Amartya Sen's approach was more of a moral orientation whose basic aim is to ensure everyone is capable enough to take care of their own development, his theory is consequentialist instead of looking at a right procedure.

Amartya Sen's focus on the capacity building of even the last person in the social ladder shows resemblance with Gandhi's Talisman and deen dayal Upadhyay Antodaya which focuses to ensure no one is left behind.



Que.8

Explain the relationship between rights, liberty, equality and justice. (200 words, 15 Marks)

In political science we come across various contested and debated concepts, some of which are rights, liberty, equality and justice. If we look at their relevance individually each hold its own significance in ensuring overall development of man but if look at them in a connected manner as a whole they are inter-related to each other.

In this regard justice is considered as an architectonic notion i.e., the most important value without which it is hard to understand the concept of liberty, equality, rights, etc.

Rawls theory of justice gives three basic principles which are to be applied in exact lexical order i.e., equal liberty



to all, equality of opportunity and the difference principle through this he has established the prominence of liberty over equality

Though these two terms seem quite similar, they have different meanings to be specific - like while equality means absence of privilege, liberty means freedom to do what one wants and

Rawls has prioritised liberty over equality

Through his difference principle he has signified towards the importance of ensuring equal rights for all irrespective of inherent disabilities

Hence though these concepts have their individual, inherent values they have been placed in hierarchical manner



This has been criticised by Berlin through his concept of "Value Pluralism" according to which no one value is superior to the other, rather all of them are placed equally in order to ensure maximum development of a man.

These value cannot be considered in isolation because one cannot have prominence over other and also that any one value cannot be realised in absence of the other hence these are all inter related and inter connected.

Justice cannot be exercised in absence of equality or liberty similarly rights cannot be exercised in absence of liberty or equality and vice versa. These are incommensurable & all of them carry equal importance.