



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 1

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: VISHWAJEET GUPTA

Test Submission Date: 27-11-2022

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:

Dear Student,



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)

Epistemologically, 'Political' comes from the word 'polis' meaning city-state in Greek.

- Political thought refers to the thoughts, beliefs and opinions regarding the political set-up at a particular instant of time and space.

Eg., Ancient Greek civilisation consisted of city-states while ancient Indian civilisation consisted of village republics.

- Political theory refers to the understanding of nature of political system and making predictions thereof. These predictions, validated over a long period, ~~becomes~~ become law.

Eg.- Theory of political liberalism implies an open and connected polity and economy.



- Political philosophy is a sub-part of political theory dealing with the ideas and conceptions of political theory.

This ~~the~~ aspect was focused and developed by philosophers like Socrates and Plato.

It deals mainly with ideal conceptions rather than empirical observations.

- Political ideology is a program based on political philosophy to mobilise people / general public over an issue. The ideologies are the concrete manifestation of political philosophy in real world.

Eg. Ideology of Communism developed by Marx.



Political Science is treated as a scientific discipline when it is based on empirical observations and verifiable facts.

The scientific disciplinary aspect was first dealt with Aristotle, regarded as father of political science.

Further developments happened over the period of two world wars.

Presently, political science is treated as scientific discipline or 'science' in mostly academic and theoretical domains.



Que.2

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

This statement reflects the ontological aspect of Socratic thinking, that is 'idealism'. It appeared as the last statements in Plato's book "Apology".

This statement reflects the sentencing of Socrates by the authorities of Athens over his philosophical ideals. They treated his thoughts unfit for society and offered a chance to Socrates to apologise and leave philosophy. However, Socrates preferred to drink 'hemlock' to prioritise his ~~th~~ values over his physical body.

According to Socrates, the purpose of life is to ~~for~~ live happily and



happiness can only be achieved by 'virtue'. Here, virtue is knowledge or excellence. Knowledge can be attained by applying 'reason' and understanding the 'world of ideas' rather than being involved in material possessions.

The search of idea / knowledge ~~sets~~ sets a person free from clutches of ignorance and arrogance.

S/he realises that the true application of reason is the distinguishing feature between animals and humans.

"It is better to be Socrates dissatisfied than be a pig satisfied."



The pursuit of knowledge goes on to define a person's existence, against his/her physical belongings.

To live by his philosophy, Socrates preferred to die happily so that his philosophy may live forever.



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)

Locke is considered the champion of natural rights of man and individualism. He believed in the 'natural law' tradition, meaning man had certain inalienable ^{rights} ~~laws~~ of life, liberty and property even in state of nature. Hence, these can not be taken away by the state.

Locke defined the state of nature as being of 'enlightened humanism'. He gave the theory of possessive individualism, implying ~~there~~ thereby that the state of nature was peaceful & in harmony.



Society entered into 'social contract' to deal with certain inconveniences and not out of fear. The contract established a 'State' with delegated responsibilities and by the consent of all individuals.

These responsibilities included a
common legislature → law-making
common executive → implementation
common judiciary → adjudication.

The state has a limited role in the form of these responsibilities and can not interfere or take away the inalienable rights of life, liberty and property.

If the state attempts to take over these rights in an arbitrary



manner, then he even highlighted the 'right to revolt' of vested with people. None of these ~~to~~ natural rights can be taken away except according to 'due process of law'.

Hence, Locke defined the State as a trust and citizens as its trustees.

It is merely a beneficiary of the contract ~~or~~ but not a part.

The theory of rights thus prove Locke to be an individualist out and out.



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)

The statement reflects the advice of Machiavelli to his Prince on 'human nature'. It shows the dominant theme of realism in his book, which is an epitome of statecraft.

Here, Machiavelli suggests prince to learn from history and human psychology rather than philosophy. It is better to see the world 'as it is' rather than 'as it is sought to be'. Machiavelli drew a direct contrast from idealism of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Over the course of his rule,



Prince is destined to come across people ~~too~~ who will not be good or with holy intentions. It becomes imperative for Prince to see people for who they truly are and be smart in the ways of world.

A Prince who takes virtues on face value and holds them in high regard irrespective of circumstances is doomed to bring destruction on his people but also on himself.

A prince can never be allowed to bring harm on his people for the sake of his values because the morality of a prince is very different from that of a commoner.



The only virtue guiding a prince's action should be 'Raison d'etat' or reason of the state.

However, it is also not advised that Prince appears unvirtuous among his people. The King should always bear a facade of holiness but should be guided by reason.

A prince should be clever like a fox and brave like a lion.

It is to be understood that thoughts of Machiavelli were heavily impacted by the time of his writing.

Nonetheless, his advices stand true even to this day.



Que.5

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

Thomas Hobbes is considered the first modern thinker in Western political philosophy because he gave the proper definition of sovereignty and human nature based on science and human psychology.

Hobbes is a social contractualist and defines the state of nature as nasty, poor, brutish and short. It ~~is~~ was a war of ~~one~~ all against all or complete anarchy.

He defines human nature as 'egoist' and 'selfish'.

The state of nature was in such a chaotic situation due to the baser instincts of human



and egotistical nature. This is due to limited resources and unlimited desires, driving conflict in society.

In order to avoid such a scary scenario and aversion to pain, humans entered into a social contract to establish a state.

They transferred all powers except 'right to life' to the state. Thus, they weeded out ~~multiple~~ multiple centres of power and sovereignty and vested them in an all-powerful 'state'.

The State became the symbol of power and centre of sovereignty thus ensuring peace and order in society.



This social contract led to establishment of a State similar to 'Leviathan' - a powerful sea monster with complete monopoly of force. However, the people still had the 'right to revolt' in case the state impinges and tries to take away 'right to life' in an arbitrary manner.

Hence, Hobbes' political theory establishes an all-powerful state that brings peace, order and stability in society.



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)

Plato and Aristotle belonged to the Socratic thinking of philosophy and tried to establish an ideal state. Both were inspired by the situation of Athens and wished to bring the city-state out of its slumber.

Aristotle was not only the greatest disciple but also greatest critic of Plato. This can be understood as:

(i) Plato believed in the 'theory of ideas' and regarded material world as an illusion.

→ Aristotle however gave equal importance to the otherworldly knowledge as well as this worldly observations.



(ii) Plato suggested the institution of 'Philosopher king' as the ideal.

→ Aristotle believed the 'Polity' to be a stable and harmonious state.

(iii) Plato was an idealist, suggesting philosopher king to learn from 'world of ideas'.

→ Aristotle believed in hylomorphism of matter and idea, placed equal importance on both. [Golden Mean]

(iv) Plato suggested communism of property and wives.

→ Aristotle supported the reform but rejected such wholesale social ~~eng~~ engineering as it may lead to revolution.



It is said that

"Aristotle diluted Plato's philosophy
with common sense."

Therefore, Aristotle asserted that Plato
is dear and a respected teacher
but truth is always dearer, or the
state is always the first priority.

In this sense, Aristotle was not
only the greatest disciple of Plato
but also his greatest critic.

Together, they founded the strong
foundations of Western political
philosophy.



Que.7

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

Locke is considered the father of liberalism and an individualist out and out. He propounded the theory of social contract based on human rights of life, liberty and property.

As a social contractualist, Locke defined the state of nature as peaceful, harmonious and socially stable. He suggested that the pre-contract ~~soi~~ state of nature was only pre-political not pre-social.

This implies that people entered the social contract as a choice and not out of fear.



The state thus formed was meant to weed out minor inconveniences and possessed delegated powers.

He suggested that 'state' as an institution is legal and not natural. It is designed to serve as a common legislature, executive and judiciary.

The inalienable rights of life, liberty and property can never be imp taken away by the state -

Defining individualism, Locke suggested that in the beginning all resources were common and available to all. Those who worked hard, laboured smartly ~~and~~ over time went on to possess significant wealth or property.



However those who were lazy and procrastinator became poor.

As a theorist of possessive individualism, Locke suggests that what man possesses is a result of his own labour (including slave & horse)

and he owes nothing back to the society. It is unfair and unjust to tax rich in order to redistribute wealth to the poor.

Thus, he is a proponent of limited government and classical liberalism.

Any attempts to take away the property of an individual can also be dealt with revolt and revolution.



Que.8

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

Plato suggests the idea of state and compares it to individual in the statement ,

"State is individual writ large".

Plato highlights that state does not come from oak or rock , rather

it inheres in the ~~so~~ minds of people . It implies that state is

just the nature of constituent individuals written in capital letters .

Plato puts forward the City-Soul Analogy in this regard. A State or a soul consists of three elements :



<u>City</u>		<u>Soul</u>
Philosophers	GOLD	Reason
Warriors	SILVER	Courage
Producers	COPPER	Appetite

It is essential in a state or an individual that roles be distributed as per the qualities dominant.

This is known as "functional specialization". The men of reason should prevail / guide men of courage and thereafter, men of appetite.

These properties are natural to human soul and thus gets reflected in the city - state.



Another important aspect is
"non-interference".

The men of gold or copper or silver should not interfere in each other's tasks. ~~as~~ This ensures the achievement of virtue or excellence of each person and brings happiness and prosperity to the state.

Modern egalitarians consider such divisions as detrimental to the 'categorical imperative' or treating men as means to an end.

However, the philosopher's target is not to achieve equality ~~but~~ rather to regain glory of Ancient Greece.



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