



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 12

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

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Test Submission Date: 06 SEPT 2023

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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.**

1 hr 15 min

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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Is the rise of social movements a sign of opening up of popular space in political process or decline of representative politics? Examine.

(200 words, 15 Marks)

Social movements are referred to issues of society often neglected or inadequately raised by representatives, these come forth in form of direct assertion by people/masses.

Generally, divided between old & new social movement, rise of social movements is a phenomenon of raising rising consciousness among middle classes. Issues of environment, equal representation & opportunities, etc. are a part of it.



Some prominent examples are
Stop Oil protests, Climate change,
Black Lives Matter, etc.

Though ^{referred to} ~~regarded as~~ opening
up of popular space in politics,
they have been a feature of
expanding democratic structure &
decentralization of power.

In third world countries, of
Africa, Latin America, social
movements are a feature of
expanding democratic framework.

Whereas, at the same
time, they are often observed



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as a feature of declining
representative politics. Societies
like Prismatic societies (F.W. Riggs)
& overdeveloped state (Hanya Alvi)
often tend to monopolise the
discourse and issues of common
concern are not sufficiently
put forward.

Therefore, a mix of
declining democratic representation
as well as rise of global
consciousness can be equally
regarded as the reasons for rise
of new social movements.



Que.2

Examine the relevance of political economy approach to comparative politics. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Political economy approach deals with the interplay of economics and public policy in modern nation - states.

It is concerned about the role economic policies play in the functioning of state and vice versa. Various schools in 'East' like Kautsky have historically implied the importance of economic welfare for a stable govt.

Modern approaches are guided by Marxist and Weberian



schools who emphasise on the defining role played by economic base in defining superstructure.

Dependency school theorists like A.G. Frank & Samir Amin refer to third world societies as 'periphery' states contributing to unequal economic growth of globe.

Structuralists like Hamza Alvi gave concept of 'overdeveloped' state' wherein state (politically mature) & negotiates with relatively traditional society and economy.



The relevance of political economy lies in quantifiable data produced, which makes the job comparative politics easier.

However, the approach is riddled with limitation of being insufficient in itself. This has to be utilised in combination with other approaches as - political sociology.

Nonetheless, political economy approach is a very significant step forward in development of comparative politics as a sub-discipline.



e.3

Discuss the impact of pandemic on the nature of states in advanced industrial societies. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Advanced industrial
societies are also regarded as
'first world' due to earlier growth
of industrialisation & urbanisation.

The nature of states in
such societies is politically
nature and more participative.

Through the evolution of Westphalian
model, these societies progressed
into a neo-liberal order wherein
state has restricted welfare
functions and more global
participation.



Pandemic was the beginning of 'problems without passports' in 21st century. The devastating impact of was witnessed in a weak public healthcare infrastructure and over-reliant global value value chains (GVC).

Since the approach and resources were seemingly ineffective in dealing with pandemic, there is a systemic & rapid rise of protectionist tendencies in Western societies. This is coinciding with rise of 'Right-wing' politics.



Efforts to de-couple &
de-risk supply chains are gaining
traction with strategies like
'friendshoring' (Janet Yellen).

Overall, there is a step
up in functioning of the state as it
remained the last resort to people.

The impact of pandemic is visible
in increased trust and dependency
on the state functions by citizens.

However, the demands of
tackling with rising inequalities
also need to be ~~tackled~~ addressed
for an inclusive growth.



Que.4

Discuss the strength of political sociology approach. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Political Sociology approach is characteristic development over previous approaches. It is the milestone development in behavioural methods to understand non-western societies in a value-free, Objective manner.

Political Sociology deals with :

- 1) Role of society on state
- 2) Impact of differences among groups (class, caste).
- 3) Role of non-institutional factors in influencing state.
Eg, Economy, Culture, etc.



Political sociology approach is more comprehensive in the sense that institutions do not only affect society but in turn get affected by society.

In case of prismatic societies (F.W. Riggs) and third-world countries, where constitutions exist but constitutionalism do not, society & state can better be understood through sociology approach.

..... Application of political ~~society~~ sociology approach is evident in works of :



- a) Andre Beteille - role of caste
- b) Paul Brass - role of religion
- c) Christophe Jaffrelot - role of RSS
- d) Yogendra Yadav - impact on elections

However, such an approach compromises on independence of discipline of political science. It gives a major focus on sociology, ignoring the tenet that society and polity are inseparable entities.

The utility of political sociology approach is evident in well-developed studies of 'overdeveloped' states in the subcontinent & beyond.

Traditional form of globalization is in partial retreat and new agendas are morphing into the new forms of globalization. Analyse.
(200 words, 15 Marks)

Globalisation is the buzzword since the advent of new century. The increasing interconnectedness and complex interdependence are the striking features of this phenomenon.

Traditionally, globalisation meant & focussed on opening up of markets, trade & economic exchanges and an integrated financial framework.

Eg., Institutions of IMF, WTO,
McDonaldization, etc.

However, with the global financial crisis (2008) and Asian financial troubles, there is an increased emphasis on reforming the nature of interactions in global economy.

In this backdrop, relatively new agendas are bringing out global cooperation. Emerging issues of climate change, sea water rise, glacial retreat as well as threats of terrorism, radicalisation, regionalisation are gaining traction.



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The reform in multilateral order is a growing demand.

Therefore, emerging consensus is on multilaterals and flexi plurilateral groupings dealing with these "problems without passports".

The emerging form of new globalization is also bringing back the state-centric framework.

States have further gained prominence in dealing with pandemic, global inflation and Ukraine crisis.

Nonetheless, a global consciousness is emerging and will be the defining aspect of new world order.



Que.6

Differentiate between the role of political parties and pressure groups with suitable examples. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Democracy became the evolved consensus in a post-Cold war period. The various waves of democracy has led to differentiated penetration of its principles in varied societies.

A significant feature of 'third world' and emerging ~~econo~~ economies is the impactful role of political parties and pressure groups.

Political parties are a group of people with similar ideological moorings, getting together



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to capture and retain power.

Whereas pressure groups are a grouping of people with similar interests who try to influence and affect policy decisions.

Political parties have a continuous role, constantly engaged in political tactics to ensure power retention whereas pressure groups can be differentiated as : associational, non-associational & anomic.

Some prominent examples of political parties are Indian National Congress (INC), BJP, Republican party, etc.



Pressure groups active in India
are - FIECI, ASOCHAM, - etc.

Pressure groups are an
internalised feature in developed
countries where lobbying is an
acceptable aspect of working.
[Interest articulation]

In prismatic societies,
political parties are a more prominent
feature for interest aggregation.

Thus, political parties as
well as pressure groups are vital
institutions for *representative
functioning and peaceful resolution
of public grievances.

Examine the changing trends in the nature of state in advanced industrial societies since the beginning of 21st century. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Nature of state in advanced industrial societies is primarily guided by the ideological constructs of liberalism, market economy and free society.

Evolving through phases of night-watchman state to welfare state to neo-liberal institutions, state in 21st century has witnessed rising inequalities and insufficiencies. Thus, the changing trends are witnessed.

Till the global financial crisis of 2008, the philosophy of laissez-faire was soaring high. The sudden jolt caused the economies to restructure and reform. State stepped in to ensure transparency and accountability.

This "bringing the state back in" approach was also witnessed in rise of political economy approach as well as state-centric globalisation model.

Further, there is a rise of 'global-right' to in face of



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resistance of people towards unabated immigration and associated problems of terrorism and extremism.

This was witnessed in elections of US, France as well as European countries.

Moreover, the pandemic and Ukraine crisis has once again enhanced the stature and power of state. These tendencies have led to a more centralized and technologically surveilled societies.

Thus, the recent trends of state reflect the complexities of modern economy and changing global order.



Que.8

Globalisation has been too complex and too contradictory process.
Discuss. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Globalisation as a process is similar to 'rising tide'. It can not always be explained in one dimension. It is entrenched in internal as well as external complexities and contradictions.

The complex nature of globalisation is discussed by scholars like David Held who argues for a decentralized and more pervasive impact of globalisation. While 'state-centrinity' is also emphasized by critical scholars.



Whether to pursue complete integration or restricted cooperation is a question long unanswered. Even while promoting interdependences, skepticism is shown about the guarantee of a uniform laws for all. Who will be the upholder of such order in a situation of defunct international institutions.

Furthermore, the impact of globalisation has also not been uniform. While there is growth of wealth, it is concentrated - among the nations as well as within societies.



Thomas Piketty 'Capital in 21st century' highlights the rising inequalities.

The issue of 'global commons' and efficient use thereof is another lingering problem.

Lack of coordinated action on climate change is evident.

This made the critics of globalisation argue that it is just another form of capitalism in its exploitative nature.

However, what is to be understood is that these problems can be addressed not by less globalisation rather more globalisation.