



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 3

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: VISHWAJEET GUPTA

Test Submission Date: 13 - 01 - 2023

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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	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 blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page.



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)

Sovereignty as a concept is the central theme of modern nation-state. It is defined as the autonomy to take decisions without external pressures, implicit or explicit.

The concept of sovereignty came to be clearly defined by the first modern thinker, Thomas Hobbes. Disregarding the authority of Church, he vested supreme powers in the 'Leviathan' state.

Another political philosopher arguing on similar lines was 'Austin'. His theory of sovereignty is referred to as Austinian theory. Together, these philosophers propounded 'Monistic theory' of sovereignty.



The theory justifies absolute power of state because their primary concern is human safety. State has authority to use 'force' against people disobeying the rule of law.

A clear cut definition and conceptualisation of the concept ended the dilemma of 'Two Swords'. Power is the sole domain of state and all other institutions are subordinate.

The philosophical guide to the concept is traced back to Plato & Aristotle.

However, the concept was modified and used as an ideological justification for totalitarian states established by Mussolini and Hitler.



Criticism for the Austinian theory came from liberal scholars like Karl Popper and anarchists like Gandhi.

Further, Pluralist scholars advocating plural sovereign institutions disagree with the monistic aspect of sovereignty. This led to creation of international and supranational institutions like United Nations and European Union.

In recent times of COVID outbreak, the demand for concerted and synchronised response dialed the time back to the original concepts. Although problematic from rights' perspective, Austinian theory finates accountability and responsibility.



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)

It is argued that feminism came as a wave and not a movement. It is not stand-still rather ever evolving.

The main tenets of feminism ~~is~~ are

- i) recognising the extent of bias.
- ii) attempt to change the patriarchy.

The first wave brought the 'liberal' and 'marxist' schools. They argued that the absence of equal rights to women in civil and political sphere should be challenged.

As a result, women got right to vote and property in many states.

The second wave brought the 'radical' and 'structural' schools



They argued for complete overhaul of patriarchal society and demanded equal socio-economic rights.

Eg.- Right to equal wage for equal work.

Scholars like Betty Friedan and Simone de Beauvoir posed stiff questions, challenging status quo.

The third wave assimilated other concerns of women and highlighted structural problems.

Eg.- Post-feminism, Black feminism, Psychoanalytical feminism, etc.

The concepts of intersectionality and eco feminism came to the fore and grabbed media attention.

Scholars like Vandana Shiva played a vital role.



The common linking thread in all three waves has been the deeply embedded nature of bias against women. The patriarchal nature of state was exposed.

These material forms of discrimination and ideological bias are a fair recognition to the problems of women. After all, "we can not solve what we do not recognise".

Further movements in tech-era like # Me Too movements, Glass ceiling effect etc. are taking the light forward, a glorious attempt to ensure power to women.



Que.3

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

Liberalism has been regarded as a historical concept. The sense of possessiveness and belongingness determined the psychological evolution of homo sapiens.

Since time immemorial the core tenet of liberalism is the 'liberty' - either to do something (Negative) or to be ~~made~~ able to acquire something (Positive).

Liberalism evolved as a theory of bourgeoisie class / capitalism. Even here, the concept was about human and not theoretical, thereby meaning 'material'.



Materialism and Consumerism as we observe today is the gift of liberalism.

Scholars of Classical, modern and neo-liberalism have always supported the right to property, material possession and minimal interference of state. John Locke, Montesquieu, Friedrich Hayek, Robert Nozick, Isaiah Berlin have all advocated similar points.

However, the excess emphasis on materialism has caused the main criticism of liberalism.

Communitarians criticise human-centrism.

Socialists criticise ~~self~~ selfish



and greedy nature of capitalism.
Marrists call the liberty as illusion.

They argue that liberalism has actually to alienated man and turned him into just a cog in wheel.

Even social liberals disagree with the love for property. They believe man should give back to society.

However, even after all these criticisms liberalism continued to evolve due to its flexible nature and developed into a meta-theory. F. Fukuyama even argued that liberal world order is the end of history.

Nonetheless, criticisms have kept liberalism grounded and humane.



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 emerged during inter-war period due to political instability and economic distress. It soon transformed into an ideological force and committed some of the worst crimes of mankind.

Scholars have disagreed on the origin of fascism and thus it is very ambiguous to define.

Notte's thesis consider it an evolutionary / historical concept.

While Eric Fromm argues that it is a 'problem of human psychology'.



Karl Popper and Hannah Arendt called it a hodge-podge of ideas. Fascism can not be defined for as what it stands for rather what it stands against. It is an opportunistic concept to grab power in unstable circumstances.

The vacuum created by a well functioning society is filled by a mass-leader who establishes a 'super state' usurping all powers.

Eg: Germany under Hitler.

The all powerful state blames the problems on one section, finds justification in history and ~~ex~~ ensures a bright future.



Thus, holism, essentialism and historicism are the main pillars of fascism. (Karl Popper)

Hence, it is argued that fascism is nothing but a pathology of human mind and no one would opt for it in a sound mind mental state.

Gandhi has also criticised the fascist ideas as deeply problematic and against the values of human soul.



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 the central concept in political science. The various theories of state have attempted to define its nature on certain thematic points. One such theory is post-colonial state.

The post-colonial theory argues that the concept of state is a western one and has been imported in oriental societies. Therefore, there is a mismatch between the polity and society. Further, in the western countries, legislature has evolved as the strongest organ while executive remains strong in post-colonial societies.



The unique differentiating feature of post-colonial societies is their colonial legacy. A lot of institutions got modernised while the society remained traditional.

Scholars like Hanfa Alavi have studied the state of Pakistan but the inferences can be used in case of India and Bangladesh as well.

The argument propounded is that there is an overdeveloped state in colonial societies. The state has become modern while society remained conservative.

This overdeveloped nature of state further widens the gulf between government and governed.



However in recent times, the spread of technology and education among masses has brought the people closer to the state.

These new organisations, pressure groups, political parties represent ~~soi~~ sub-altern classes, marginalised groups, environmental issues as well.

Thus, the emergence of such new actors and social forces have forced a rethink of the original theory. On the whole, this narrowing of distance is a welcome facet of resurging masses and evolving democracies. It shows masses have accepted and internalised the theory of ~~state~~ 'service state'.



Que.6

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

"The history of all hitherto societies
has been the history of class struggle."

The conflict among classes has been the defining feature of all societies according to Marrx. The dialectics of class is the main theme of Marxism.

Historically, the society has been divided into haves and have nots.

In ancient times, masters had control over slaves.

In mediaval times, lords had control over serfs.

In modern times, capitalists have control over workers.



The control is enforced and sustained through the bargaining power of dominant class. Further, the powerful class goes on to influence the state. Gradually, state becomes an 'instrument of dominant class' as argued by Institutional school.

Marx argues that workers eventually work towards their own exploitation. The labour and profit is distributed unequally, furthering the bargaining power of capitalists.

Workers have no solace in the views of intellectuals as well because they are creating false consciousness.



Therefore, Marx argues that state is nothing but an instrument of power in hands of powerful class.

This dialectics will end with the overthrowing of capitalist system and establishment of Communism.

Marx offered a sharp critique of industrial societies and exposed the true nature of state. However, defining the state based on economic structure would be far fetched.

Later, Critical School and Relative autonomy school have tried to save Marxism from 'economic determinism'.



Que.7

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

Neoliberalism emerged as the recent form of liberalism in 1970's & 80's, arguing for 'rolling back of state'.

The 'nanny state' had become financially unsustainable and less desirable.

The contemporary capitalism thrives on trade and globalisation as argued by neo-liberal scholars like Friedrich Hayek, Robert Nozick and Milton Friedman.

However, the glaring inequalities of wealth and concentration of capital in few hands has led to criticism of the neo-liberal world order.



Thomas Picketty has argued that concentration of wealth is a systemic problem of capitalism and can not be hidden.

Joseph Stiglitz talks about a Post-Washington Consensus as the chips are falling left and right.

Even social liberals like Amartya Sen have argued for state intervention in 'capacity building'. It is all the more important for developing societies like India and China.

Finally, COVID-19 hammered the last nail in the coffin as the



entire liberal world order was in shatters and authoritarian states forced somewhat better in response.

The vaccine nationalism, checks on foreign travellers, curbs on movement of essential goods are the glaring examples of a crisis.

This is high time for a restructuring of the global order. Even Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about a new liberal order on global stage. It remains to be seen how much of the promises and aspirations actualise because the "time to act is now."



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)

Marx's Communism came as a response to the problems of industrial world in early 20th century. Marx called his theory 'scientific' because it was based on ground reality and gave a method to change status quo.

"Scholars have only defined the world, the point however is to change it."

Communism was a socio-political programme for the overhaul of industrial society based on capitalist principles. It should be based on socialist principles.



Communism was not a 'utopia' because it gave concrete steps to actualisation. Nor it was presented in vacuum because the social conditions were ripe for a workers' revolution.

It gave step by step method for establishing Socialism / ~~Direct~~ Dictatorship of Proletariat and gradually moving towards a stateless and classless 'Commune'. State will wither away as a useless institution and people will have 'equality of outcome'.

In Marx's words, the journey from greed to need will be bloody and violent. "Violence is the midwife of change. There is no birth without blood."



However, there is no communist society in present world because the system of capitalism transformed into a welfare state.

Nonetheless, the objective of Marx was not revolution. It was the emancipation of masses. Hence, it would not be incorrect to say that Marx's criticism of capitalism have made and kept it humane.



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Space for Rough Work



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1. Write a critical note on the concept of sovereignty with a special reference to Austin's theory of sovereignty.
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.
3. Liberalism is a view of a thing and not a theory. Comment.
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.
5. The emergence of new actors and social forces are forcing a rethink of the overdeveloped thesis of the state. Critically evaluate.
6. The state is based on power relations between classes. Comment.
7. Neoliberalism as the mode of existence of contemporary capitalism is in systemic crisis. Discuss.
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.



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Tips for Writing Good Answers:-

1. *Read the question carefully and at least 3-4 times.*
2. *Note down concepts, facts, examples, keywords related to the question.*
3. *Draw a rough outline of the flow.*
4. *Pay adequate attention to the introduction and conclusion.*
5. *Introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it.*
6. *Conclusion must summarize your response to the question.*
7. *Make sure answer is*
 - a. *Logical and coherent*
 - b. *Clear connection between sentences and paragraphs.*
 - c. *Written correctly giving adequate compatibility to your expression, style and presentation*
 - d. *Do not exceed the word limit*
 - e. *Write neatly*
 - f. *Underline points you wish to emphasize.*

