



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 5

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

Name: VISHWAJEET GUPTA

Test Submission Date: 19-01-2023

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:	

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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 ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, 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 enjoyed by virtue of being a human, irrespective of any other criteria. These are regarded as basic conditions for a life of dignity.

The theory of human rights finds its roots in the 'theory of natural rights' but gained prominence in aftermath of Second world war. The pinnacle/source of human rights is the 1948 document 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' signed ~~by~~ under the guise of United Nations.

It includes an array of rights, ranging from basic right to life, liberty, political rights, cultural rights and so on.



Though the scope of human rights is varied, the attempt is to ensure maximum possible rights to all.

However, a hierarchy ensures that certain bare minimum rights are available to all humans.

- (A) Natural Rights - Right to life, liberty, Freedom of expression, Right to fair trial, etc.
- (B) Legal - Political Rights - Right to vote, Right to contest elections, Freedom to choose, etc. representatives
- (C) Socio - Economic Rights - Right to min. wage, Humane conditions at work, Fixed working hours, etc.
- (D) Cultural Rights - Right to preserve and celebrate one's culture, etc.

Nonetheless, the scope of rights is ever expanding.



The relationship between protection of human rights and Sustainable & Developmental goals runs deep. It is argued by activists that SDGs are a means to attain universal human rights.

Sustainable goals like No poverty, Zero hunger, Affordable living, Healthcare are themselves a manifestation of human rights. Further, these SDGs create an imperative on nation-states to achieve and guarantee human rights.

In the present world, situations of war, pandemic, rising inequalities are a reminder to believe in humanity as a whole & work for their betterment.

The concept of 'One World, One Family, One Future' can't be more relevant.



Que.2

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

The concept of 'equality' is a central theme in political science. It gained phenomenal importance in modern world. Modern interpretations of the concept differentiate between 'equality' and 'equity'. Former is a demand in absolute sense while latter is an adequate appropriation of resources.

Equality aims at 'literal sense' of the term and goes for need-based distribution while equity aims at merit / desert-based distribution.

At ideological level, 'equality' is the concept espoused by Socialists & Marxists. Whereas, 'equity' is the buzzword for classical & neo-liberal scholars.



Equality can be understood in various forms, evolving from procedural to substantive.

Legal equality - calls for equal legal status of all. The concept developed in 17th-18th century in backdrop of Industrial revolution.

Political equality - is a development over previous notions and aims at equality for all in democratic set-up. Since 19th century, the demands are increasing. Eg., Right to vote (Universal Adult Franchise), One vote, one value; Right to contest elections.

Socio-Economic equality - demands the fulfillment of basic needs of all. After second world war, the rising inequality is a major reason for economic and wealth redistribution.



While Legal equality raised the status of lower classes, scholars like Locke ~~an~~ argued for demolition of notion that inequalities are natural (Aristotle);

Political equality brought people at the centre of decision-making. ~~Modern~~

~~liberals~~ The issues of feminism and downtrodden came to the fore.

Socio-economic equality is the demand of Marxists and argues for a dignified life to all where basic necessities are fulfilled.

Thus, a complex mix of all these forms of equality is the way forward.

However, the means employed to reach these goals remain conflictual.

A coordinated approach is the need of the hour.



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)

Rawlsian theory of justice stands in opposition to utilitarian principles. He defines his theory as 'purely procedural', aiming to achieve universal acceptability.

Rawls argues that justice is not merely redistribution of resources, the distribution should be based on fair principles.

He thus emphasises on 'justice as fairness'.

In the book "A theory of justice" (1971),

Rawls revives the Kantian tradition and expounds the concept of

'veil of ignorance' and 'original position' to arrive at those principles.

The people in these positions are moral beings with a minimum knowledge of subjects.



These people will arrive at the following principles :

- * [1] Liberty principle - ensure maximum possible liberty compatible to liberty of all.
- [2a] Equality of opportunity in public offices.
- [2b] Difference principle - Any deviation from equality should be to ensure 'maximum advantage to least privileged'.

These principles, in 'lexical order', would ensure fair and reasonable distribution of 'primary goods' in a way that is beneficial to all.

Such a society would be just and peaceful, where people would accept the principles willingly.



Communitarians, however, have criticised Rawls for considering humans ^{as} ~~at~~ 'atomistic'.

They argue that man is a 'situated self' and can never be in original position.

The rational decisions of man are to some extent influenced by their community.

Therefore, a universal definition of justice is not acceptable.

Rawls, in his book "Political liberalism", responded by arguing that the principles may not have 'overarching consensus' but this is the most suitable way to settle disagreements in political sphere in western liberal democracies.



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)

Affirmative action is a modern tool to deal with historical injustices done to certain sections of society. It is an attempt to catalyse upliftment and provide level playing field.

The case of affirmative action as 'reverse discrimination' in India is an extreme one. B.R. Ambedkar argued for affirmative action to the Dalits and Tribals to include them in mainstream society and offer true equality of opportunity.

Ambedkar said in Constituent Assembly that ensuring political democracy without social and economic democracy is bound to fail.



Therefore ; affirmative action is the efficient tool to build an egalitarian society.

Similar views have been put forward by Tocqueville and Laski as well.

They argued for reduction of inequality as the effective way to ensure that natural ~~A~~ talents do not go waste.

In Indian context, Articles 15, 16, 17 have been the manifestation of these principles.

Critics, however pointed out that the policy of reverse discrimination often leads to social fragmentation. Liberal scholars have argued that such a policy compromises merit and talents.



Further, the benefits of the policy are cornered by the privileged section among the underprivileged.

Finally, neo-liberal scholars and right-wing leaders question the rationale of punishing present generation for historical wrongs.

Nonetheless, Supreme Court of India has time and again validated the policy as need of a developing society.

Development of few at the cost of majority can not be regarded as democratic.

Furthermore, the policy has shown ~~tentative~~ tangible results. The scope and method of implementation remain debated but that is a healthy debate.



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)

Dworkin is a social liberal, arguing for positive liberty and state intervention in developing 'capacity' of individuals.

In the backdrop of attacks against classical liberalism by Marxist and Socialist scholars, modern liberals as well as social liberals like Dworkin, Laski, Amartya Sen argue for demands of positive liberty and active intervention of state in developing capacity. ~~and~~. Dworkin argues for removal of external as well as internal impediments to realisation of substantive equality in socio-economic sphere.



Dworkin argues for 'equality of resources' as the basic egalitarian principle.

However, critics have pointed that any radical conception of equality of resources would deviate from the liberal order. Too much overemphasis on the state for redistribution has also been criticised by neo-liberals such as Robert Nozick.

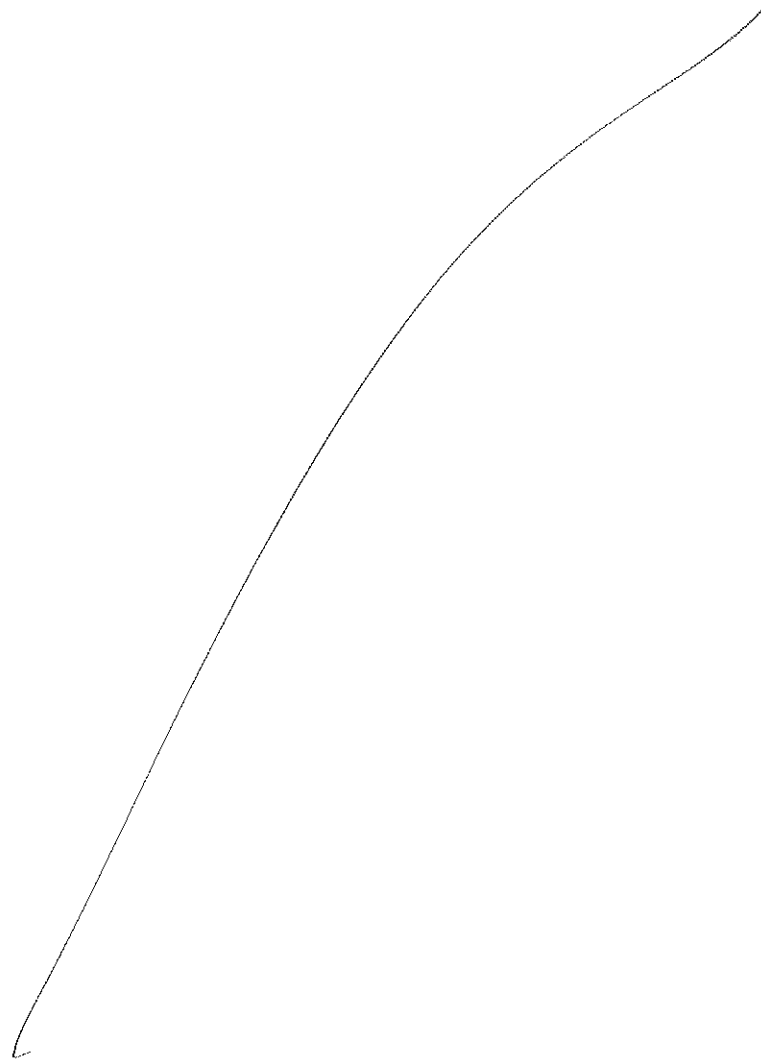
Nonetheless, the principles ~~of~~ expounded by Dworkin's theory can be a good step towards harmonizing abstract theory with practices.



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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)

TH Green defines "rights as power that are essential for fulfilment of man's vocations as moral being."

Rights are claims that become an inalienable part of human beings to guarantee a life of dignity.

Rights are also defined as obligations on the state.

In his essays, Dworkin argues that rights are the basic conditions for fulfilment of human capacity.

These are foundational / fundamental in nature in the sense that state can not take them away arbitrarily.



Trumps are absolute rights which are essential to human existence. State or any other individual has no role in inhibiting their exercise.

However, Dworkin does not give absolute priority to rights. There can be certain situations where the benefit accrued by curtailing one's rights can be far beyond the cost of maintaining the right. In such a case, Dworkin allows the violation of rights.

Therefore, like Locke, Dworkin also believes in inviolability of rights but not in an absolute sense.



It can therefore be concluded that Dworkin supports rights, not as an instrument of policy rather having intrinsic value as well as instrumental value. These rights are beyond the abstract goals.



Que.7

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

The capability approach is considered a novel and genuine addition to the theory of equality. It enriches the tradition of substantive equality while rooted in morality.

Historically, equality was considered as the domain of distribution of resources and opportunities. The various schools have dealt with the above issues. However, an important question to ask here is, whether a person is capable of utilising the opportunities available? This sets the groundwork for Amartya Sen's work.



Sen argues that rather than focussing on distribution of goods/goals or resources, state should focus on developing the 'capabilities' of individuals.

This is more essential in developing third-world countries where material resources are scarce.

Sen quotes the example of China where the state invested heavily in education and healthcare of citizens.

These individuals henceforth created capabilities and opportunities for themselves. Similar approach is being witnessed in India as well.

Schemes like Ayushman Bharat are a testament to ~~it~~ that.



This capability approach is actually grounded in the moral essence of being human. Rather than having equality in literal sense, it is ~~better~~ preferable to have developed capabilities. These skills go a long way in ensuring a dignified life to individuals.

Thus, it is widely appreciated that Amartya Sen's approach has produced visible results in Bangladesh & many African countries. The essence of humanity is in being free from constraints. As it turns out, skill / capability is the harbinger of true freedom.



Que.8

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

There exists an inter-connected, complex relationship between rights, liberty, equality and justice.

Liberty and Equality as values gained prominence after French revolution.

It resulted into 'Declaration of rights of man and citizens'. Therefore, it is argued that liberty and equality exist as complementary and contradictory values at times; while rights are the concrete manifestation of a fine balance between the two.

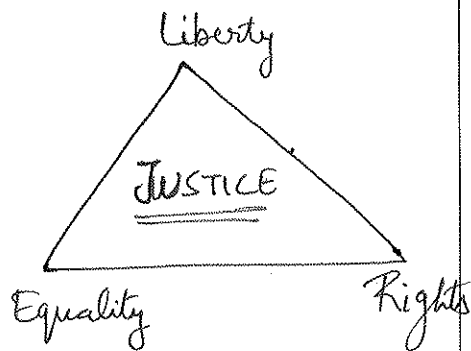
Rights ensure that liberty is not compromised for the sake of ~~E~~ equality and vice-versa.



On a broader understanding, all three: rights, liberty and equality are actually grounded in the moral framework of 'justice'.

It implies rights balance the values of liberty and equality in a just manner.

The trinity of liberty, equality and rights achieve acceptability in a society only when they are based on just principles.

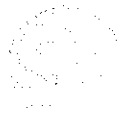


Any deviation from this fabric of inter-connectedness leads to chaotic repercussions.



Divorcing liberty from justice or equality would make rights ineffective. Similarly, absolute liberty would be incompatible with any form of equality.
(Laski)

Thus, it can be aptly concluded that the moral foundations of human society has been laid on the principles of liberty, equality and rights. Justice acts as the architectonic element. However, with ever-evolving society, the arenas of 'application of these concepts keep on developing.



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Space for Rough Work



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