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By: *Gopal*, M.A. M. Phil. (Political Science)



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MRP ₹ 320/-

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

POLITICAL THEORY

M.P.S.-1

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any five of the following questions selecting at least two from each section.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Explain the main features of Modern Political Theory.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'What is Political Theory?' and Page No. 3, 'Modern Political Theory'.

Q. 2. Write an essay on any three types of democracy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 15, 'Participatory Democracy', Page No. 16, 'Social Democracy' and Page No. 17, 'Deliberative Democracy'.

Q. 3. "Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."

Discuss the importance of the concept and idea of justice in the light of this statement.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 56, Q. No. 1 and Page No. 52, 'Introduction' and 'Idea of Justice'.

Q. 4. Discuss the Marxist and non-Marxist views of the concept of power.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 88, 'Concept of Power', 'Different Views of Power' and Page No. 89, 'Michael Foucault on Power'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Pluralistic view of sovereignty.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 72, 'Pluralistic Attack on Sovereignty'.

(b) Causes of political violence

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 108, 'Causes of Political Violence' and 'General Causes of Political Violence'.

Q. 6. Explain the importance of Civil Society and discuss its relationship with state.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 78, 'Civil Society: Meaning and Characteristics' and Page No. 82, 'Relationship Between State and Civil Society'.

Q. 7. Explain the meaning of the Gandhian concept of "Passive Resistance".

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-27, Page No. 199, Q. No. 3 and Chapter-13, Page No. 105, Q. No. 4.

Q. 8. Critically examine Multiculturalism-Liberalism interface.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-24, Page No. 181, Q. No. 2.

Q. 9. Write a note on any two theories of nationalism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-23, Page No. 172, 'Perennial Theory' and Page No. 173, 'Modernization Theories'.

Q. 10. Examine the various perspectives of citizenship in contemporary societies.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 65, Q. No. 1, Page No. 66, Q. No. 2 and Q. No. 3.

■ ■

QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

POLITICAL THEORY

M.P.S.-1

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any five of the following questions selecting at least two from each section.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Distinguish among political theory, political philosophy and political science.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 6, Q. No. 4.

Q. 2. Discuss the role of equality in contemporary societies.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 48, Q. No. 4 and Page No. 48, 'Dimensions of Equality'.

Q. 3. Outline different types of duties and suggest their implications.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 62, Q. No. 6 and Page No. 58, 'Significance and Meaning'.

Q. 4. Briefly explain the nationalism and discuss contemporary developments in the area of nationalism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-23, Page No. 176, Q. No. 3 and Page No. 177, Q. No. 10.

Q. 5. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Democratic socialism

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-20, Page No. 157, 'Democratic Socialism'.

(b) Individualism

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-17, Page No. 133, 'Individualism and Individual Rights and Duties'.

SECTION-II

Q. 6. Write an essay on Gandhian concept of Satyagraha.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 101, 'Gandhian Concept of Civil Disobedience and Satyagraha'.

Q. 7. "The Government that governs the least is the best." Elucidate the concept and meaning of liberalism in the light of above statement.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-17, Page No. 135, 'Rule of Law' and 'Limited Government' and 'Critical Evaluation and Summary'.

Q. 8. What is Lenin's theory of imperialism? Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-18, Page No. 142, 'Imperialism'.

Q. 9. Trace the origin of the term feminism and enumerate types of feminism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-26, Page No. 191, 'Historical Perspective' and Page No. 195, Q. No. 2.

Q. 10. Write a note on Edmund Burke as a conservative thinker.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-21, Page No. 162, 'Introduction', 'Meaning of Conservativeness' and Page No. 166, Q. No. 4.

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Sample Preview of The Chapter

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POLITICAL THEORY

1

What is Political Theory and Why Study It?

INTRODUCTION

In the lexicon of the Political Science, Political Theory has got a very prominent place. It is regarded as the separate branch of Political Science. And it has attained added significance, particularly after the rise of 'Behavioural Movement' in the Political Science. The Behavioural movement with its emphasis on the postulation of empirical, systematic and scientific theories on the pattern of the natural sciences has added to the credibility of the political theory.

However, there is a tendency in the political science to equate Political Theory with Political Philosophy. This is not right, as there is a substantial difference between these two branches of the Political Science. While the term Political Philosophy stands for the 'thought about thought', political theory is a conceptual scheme of the functional relationships between two political variables or the phenomena.

While the Political Theory is concerned with establishment of the relationship between two variables like power and liberty, the main concern of the Political Philosophy is implications and nature of rational ideas. Political Philosophy deals with clarification of the thought, elucidation of meaning and its effects on other ideas. It is speculative in nature so far as its approach is concerned.

WHAT IS THEORY?

Theory has its origin in the Greek word 'theoria', meaning focused mental contemplation at something to understand it or have in-depth look. In modern time, Arnold Brecht and Karl Deutsche have dealt with theory, giving it new perspective. However, Arnold Brecht, while giving theory a broader look, terming it as "a thinker's entire teaching on a subject", he has also limited it by confining the function or realm of theory to 'explaining is the function of theory'. Theory is not mere description of a phenomenon, philosophical speculation on a subject, but also scientific analysis of the phenomenon. It is the combination of the both the elements of the science and philosophy.

Theory is not just thought, it is a scientific thought about thought. It is not hypothesis as it is mere assumption of the facts, and lacks the definiteness, which is characteristic of theory. Theory is not mere description of a fact or phenomenon, it is concerned with the 'discovering' and finding some verifiable reality or the cause or some patterns. Theory is not practice or talking about the practice, it is guide to practice. As Karl Deutsche maintains that theory seeks to explain, relate unrelated matters and disjointed facts and data. It points out the missing links and traces out what is relevant, and provides the predictions and projections based on observable facts.

WHAT IS POLITICAL THEORY?

According to Dyke, a theory is basically construction of conceptual scheme through which functional relationships are established between two variables. And the Political Theory is the conceptual scheme through which functional relationships between two or more political variables. A theory aims at arriving generalized statement about political facts. This generalized statement can be verified and tested through observation or other methods of the political inquiry.

However, the level of the generalization may vary on the same scale; some may be higher on the side while other on lower on the side of the generalization. Except the difference in the scale of the generalization, the theory has verifiable property so that it could be analysed and tested with the observable phenomena. While in the case of the other Political Theory, the level of the generality may differ from each-other, its conclusion is same as in other.

POLITICAL THEORY: IMPLICATION

A theory in general and Political Theory in particular is based on the implications of the science and philosophy. It helps one to understand the reality beyond the political and non-political realities. Brecht has aptly said the implications of the Political Theory, "It is the function of the political theorist to see, sooner than others, and to analyse, more profoundly than

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others, the immediate and the potential problems of the political life of society; foreseeable consequences of which have been fully thought through and supply him not only with brilliant ideas, but with a solid block of knowledge on which to build.”

Some thinkers and scientists like Brecht considers Political Theory as one of the elements in the development and advance of the humanity. As Brecht has termed a political theory in its benevolent implications as “... one of the most important weapons in our struggle for the advance of the humanity.”

With the Behavioural Revolution, the theory building on the scientific line as in the natural sciences has become possible. The Michel's 'iron law of oligarchy' is a case in point. This theory seeks to establish relationship between the a small powerful group and accumulation of vast power and influence a democratic system. Montesque's 'Theory of Separation' is another political theory that can be termed as theory in true sense.

For example, the Behaviourist theory views politics as 'process' and put emphasis on the building theory, which should be scientific and objective. The Behavioural approach puts forward the plea that politics is omnipresent and all the activities of human beings come under politics. Accordingly, the word 'political' is defined in terms of activities rather than institutions.

The Behaviourists maintained institutions or structures are not sufficient to understand the political phenomenon. It should be more comprehensive and include actual working of institutions and informal phenomena like crowd, kinship and caste. They further maintain that the 'process' of working of institutions, rather than only their structure should be the proper focus of analysis. Thus, it sees the disagreements, conflicts, competition, cooperation, integration and settlement of conflicts as the essential processes in the game of politics. It views power as pivotal to Political Science around which every process as well as institutions run. Power is the guiding principle of every phenomenon.

The Behavioural Revolution occurred in the USA in the second quarter of the 20th century. Charles Merriam, Heinz Eulan, Robert Dahl, Lasswell, David Easton and Almond are the main protagonists of the behavioural approach. The main features of the approach may be summed up as:

1. The study of politics focuses its attention on the individual and group behaviour, and on political processes.

2. They stand for new methodology for the study of the politics. This is based on survey, research and observation.

3. They give more preferences to the inter-disciplinary method. It borrows the tools and techniques of the natural sciences and other human sciences.

POLITICAL THEORY: CONTENTS

The content of the Political Theory is very vast, which includes all-inclusive politics, system and the related aspect. It has social, economic, cultural moral, philosophical, factual, objective and subjective, real and unreal dimensions, and what not. The contents of the Political Theory are what is political and non-political, and study of all social and natural sciences to get right perspective of phenomenon, based on the objectivity and comparative study. The Political Theory provides the insight behind the working of the different institution, behaviours of the political and non-political realities etc.

The theory like that of general system, which is associated with System approach as put forward by Ludwig believes in borrowing tools, techniques and methodology from other disciplines like Psychology, Anthropology, Mathematics and Electrical Engineering, and applying these into the study of human phenomena-political as well as social. The basic premise on which systems theory is based is the different objects or elements or strand in constant relationship with one another. Such relationships follow a definite pattern (structure) and certain characteristic processes. According to David Easton, "Political System is a set of interaction abstracted from the totality of social behaviour, through which authoritative values are allocated for a society".

This can be understood by concrete examples like our political system. Our political system, broadly speaking, constitutes three organs of Government - Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. The fourth is what is called Fourth Estate - Press. Any change in any of the four parts or organs of government will be reflected each one. Moreover, these four organs constitute a set of subsystems consisting all four. The four subsystems are dependent on one-another and any change in any of these is reflected on every one.

NATURE OF POLITICAL THEORY

There is no unanimity regarding the nature of Political Theory. Some equates it with thought and philosophy, while others term it as science. Still there is one school of thought that considers political theory

as history. Though the Political Theory takes into all these factors, it is not thought, philosophy, history and science only, yet it contains all these aspects. It is partly history, partly philosophy and partly science.

POLITICAL THEORY AS HISTORY

Some scholars like George Sabine view theory as history. The political theory tests its paradigm and hypothesis through history. However, all history is not political, and similarly all political theory is not history. Political Theory as history traces the values and principles such as divine origin. Political theory in its historical perspective attempts to understand what has been lost and why it has been so.

POLITICAL THEORY AS PHILOSOPHY

Political Theory as philosophy seeks to analyse what should be or what ought to be. By doing so it not only helps in understanding the nature of things, but also explains as to why particular things or phenomenon occurs. Leo Strauss is the main protagonist of this view of the Political Theory.

POLITICAL THEORY AS SCIENCE

There are a number of thinkers and political scientists, who consider Political Theory as Science. In fact the main objective of the Behavioural and post-Behavioural Revolution was based on theory building and study of the political phenomenon on the scientific line. David Easton, Robert Dahl, Arthur Bentley are some of the prominent thinkers who view Political Theory as science and study political phenomenon the line and principles of the natural sciences. However, Political Theory can not be tested and studied in the same way, as is the case with the natural sciences.

POLITICAL THEORY: GROWTH AND EVOLUTION

Political Theory has passed through many stages and the ups and downs in its evolution. Right from the beginning in the ancient and growth in the medieval period, it has entered modern period and moving towards post-modernism. The growth and the evolution of political theory is traceable in three phases: Classical political theory, modern political theory and the contemporary political theory.

CLASSICAL POLITICAL THEORY

The classical political theory has its origin in ancient Greek culture, Plato and Aristotle and to some extent Kautilya in ancient India. According to Sheldon Wolin, the classical political theory has following characteristics:

WHAT IS POLITICAL THEORY AND WHY STUDY IT? / 3

Firstly, it aims at gathering reliable knowledge about the matters concerning people, a philosophical pursuit to establish rational basis for a political phenomenon.

Secondly, its basic unit of the analysis is polity as a whole, comprising interrelated structures and active and live relationship.

Thirdly, it is visionary in the sense that it projects the best form of the polity as the ideal.

Fourthly, it puts on comparative studies and analysis to get the in-depth knowledge of the subject. The Aristotle's classification of the forms of the government is testified to this.

Fifthly, the classical political theory, as it is related to the whole, it put emphasis on the order, balance, stability and harmony.

Sixthly, it considers political and public domain as one and the same.

Finally, classical political theory is ethical and its mode of analysis is rooted in moral outlook.

MODERN POLITICAL THEORY

Modern Political Theory consists of an array of trends, streams of thoughts and schools of thought such as positivistic, empiricism, structural-functional, Behavioural and post-Behaviouralism and other related theories. The modern political theory has been the most dominant theory of the 20th century. The modern political theories may be categorized in mainly two streams: Liberal, including, individualistic, liberalism and pluralism, and Marxist including idealist, collectivist and socialist.

The modern theory, particularly liberal one, has its roots in the 15th and 16th centuries. Since then it has manifested in many forms and different streams such as positivist, structural, individualism, empirical-Behavioural and post-Behaviouralism. The modern political theory is really modern in the true sense of the term as it is based on objectivity, scientific analysis, and process-oriented; it concentrates more on present realities and it is more humane and human behaviour-oriented.

It has many features, which can be enumerated as follows:

Firstly, it considers the facts and data as the basis of the study. The facts are first gathered, studied, explained and tested and verified.

Secondly, it believes that human behaviour can be put to the study and analysis. The regularities and the trends may be generalized, and a verifiable and testable theory can be built.

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Thirdly, it is based on the objective study of the facts and trends. Subjectivity does not find any favour with modern theorist in general and those Behaviourist and post-Behaviourist in particular. It puts more emphasis on analytical explanation of the political phenomenon rather than that of philosophical thinking; it is process or procedure-oriented. It prefers observation to the descriptive method of the study and scientific to the normative one.

Fourthly, facts and values are never mixed, these two are viewed and treated as separate entity. However, the help of the values are taken into consideration to elucidate the facts. Its methodology is experimental, quantitative and empirical. Moreover, it puts emphasis on the interdisciplinary study and borrowing the tools and techniques of the natural sciences. In addition, the modern political theory puts greater emphasis on 'What is' rather than on 'What should or ought to be'.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY

Contemporary Political Theory deals with comprehension, explanation and investigation of the political concepts, principles and institutions. David Held sums up the nature and features of the contemporary Political Theory in following terms: "first, the philosophical concerned, above all with the conceptual and normative; *second*, the empirical-analytical concerned, above all, with problems of understanding and explanation; *third*, the strategic-concerned, above all with an assessment of feasibility of moving from where we are to where we might like to be. To these, one must add, the historical, the examination of the changing meaning of the political discourse—its key concepts, theories, and concerns—over time."

WHY IT SHOULD BE STUDIED?

As a political theory is, generally, the outcome of the existing political, social, economic and cultural situations in a certain period of time, it helps us in understanding many aspects of a particular phenomenon or the vent or country. Apart from reflecting on the socioeconomic situations prevailing at particular time, it also presents a depth analysis of the political facts.

SIGNIFICANCE OF POLITICAL THEORY

Political theories like '*iron law of oligarchy*' and '*separation of power*' provides us insight into present system of democracy and the federal government. It points the weaknesses and loopholes of a democratic set up, and also establishes cause and effect in general terms. This can help us to remove the weaknesses or try to find the reason that lead to the sordid situations.

Alternatively, some appropriate arrangements or institutional structure can be devised to prevent such tendencies in a democratic government.

In addition to it, a political theory can act as catalyst of change in a polity, which has failed in delivering good to people or failed in providing for the minimum requirements and the need of the most of the people. It is very potent force that can shake up the foundation of mighty power or lead a minnow in the international arena to become a power to be reckoned with.

The modern history of the world is replete with numerous cases where strong political theory like liberty, equality and justice led to epoch-making change and evolution. The French Revolution, The American War of Independence and the foundation of the United States of America, the Glorious Revolution are some of the examples that underlines the significance of the Political Theory. The India Freedom Movement and that of large number of countries of the Afro-Asian region were all inspired and galvanized by the theories of liberty, freedom, nationalism etc.

A theory, and a political theory in particular, not only helps one to understand the background and causes behind any country specific or the regional, or the international event, but also presents a prescriptive measures to prevent the repetition of such phenomenon or structure.

Moreover, a political theory like Nationalism, Marxism, Imperialism may have cascading effect on the political scientists, theorists and specialists, leading to further theory building in the related fields. It may lead to some innovative thinking in respect of the working of institutions or the structures.

Apart from it, a political theory can help us in the study of State, Power and Man. It encompasses every aspect of Political Science, so far its scope is concerned. It helps us to understand the State, its origin, its development, its various stages, its present position, and its relation with man, institution and association and its ideal form.

The study of political theories such as idealism, individualism, utilitarianism, socialism, Gandhism, Marxism, Communism, Fascism etc. may enrich our insight of the development of human civilization. They are also the live account of the history and its travails and agonies.

It may also provide in-depth knowledge about the structures of government and its functions, various forms and its composition, different political institutions, theories and forms.