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INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

B.P.S.C.-105

B.A. Pol. Science. (Hons.) - 3rd Semester

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Based on

C.B.C.S. (Choice Based Credit System) Syllabus of

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By: Kshyama Sagar Meher



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**Sample Preview
of the
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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

B.P.S.C.-105

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: The paper has **two** sections. Attempt **five** questions, selecting at least **two** questions from each section.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Explain the significance of comparative method.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 12, 'The Comparative Method : Why Compare?'

Q. 2. Critically evaluate the systems theory.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 38, 'System Approach' and Page No. 40, 'System Theory: An Evaluation'.

Q. 3. Explain the functions and role of the Communist Party in China's political system.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 143, 'Understanding the China's Political System'.

Q. 4. Write notes on the following:

(a) Case Study Method

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'Case Study'.

(b) House of Lords

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 106, Q. No. 3.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Analyse the nature of the relationship between the Executive and the Legislature in the U.K. Parliamentary System.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 103, 'Executive and Legislature in UK Parliament'.

Q. 6. Discuss the nature of federalism in Brazil.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 132, 'Federalism in Brazil'.

Q. 7. Describe the structure of Nigerian Federalism and its functioning.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 135, 'Structure of Nigerian Federalism' and 'Functioning of Nigerian Federalism'.

Q. 8. Write notes on the following:

(a) Scientific Socialism

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 88, Q. No. 14.

(b) Tiananmen Movement

Ans. In 1989 Beijing's Tiananmen Square became the focus for large-scale protests, which were crushed by China's Communist rulers. In the 1980s, China was going through huge changes. The ruling Communist Party began to allow some private companies and foreign investment. Leader Deng Xiaoping hoped to boost the economy and raise living standards. However, the move brought with it corruption, while at the same time raising hopes for greater political openness. The Communist Party was divided between those urging more rapid change and hardliners wanting to maintain strict state control. In the mid-1980s, student-led protests started. In spring 1989, the protests grew, with demands for greater political freedom. Protesters were spurred on by the death of a leading politician, Hu Yaobang, who had overseen some of the economic and political changes. Tens of thousands gathered on the day of Hu's funeral, in April, calling for greater freedom of speech and less censorship. In the following weeks, protesters gathered in Tiananmen Square, with numbers estimated to be up to one million at their largest. Thus the movement got its name "Tiananmen movement".

■ ■

QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

B.P.S.C.-105

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: The paper has **two** sections. Attempt **five** questions, selecting at least **two** questions from each section.

SECTION – I

Q. 1. Explain the meaning and scope of comparative study of politics.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Comparative Study of Politics: Nature and Scope' and Page No. 5, Q. No. 4.

Q. 2. Describe the features of Systems Analysis.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 38, 'General Systems Theory and Systems Theory' and Page No. 39, 'Derivatives of the System Analysis'.

Q. 3. Write short notes on the following :

(a) New Institutionalism

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 30, Q. No. 5.

(b) Case Study as a Method of Comparison

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'Case Study'.

Q. 4. Explain how democracy and capitalism interact with each other.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 66, 'Inter-relationship Between Liberal Democracy and Capitalism'.

SECTION – II

Q. 5. Write short notes on the following:

(a) World Systems Approach

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 53, 'World System Analysis'.

(b) The Concept of Over-Developed State

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 94, 'The Over Developed State'.

Q. 6. What is the nature of the relationship between the executive and the legislature in UK?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 103, 'Executive and Legislature in UK Parliament'.

Q. 7. Give a brief account of dependency and underdevelopment in Latin America.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 119, 'Dependency and Development in Brazil'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Federalism in Brazil

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 132, 'Federalism in Brazil'.

(b) Rule of Law

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 104, 'Rule of Law'.



Sample Preview of The Chapter

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INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

BLOCK-I : UNDERSTANDING COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Nature, Scope and Utility of Comparative Study of Politics



INTRODUCTION

Comparative study of politics refers to comparing political phenomena in countries around the world. The nature and scope of comparative politics depend on the (a) subject-matter (b) vocabulary and (c) political perspective. In this chapter, we shall study the major aspects of comparative study of politics including its nature, scope and utility.

differences. The purpose of using comparisons is to study political phenomena in a larger framework of relationships. It would help deepen our understanding and broaden the levels of answering and explaining political phenomena. Comparative politics thus, involves a conscious and systematic use of comparisons to study two or more countries with the purpose of identifying and explaining differences or similarities between them with respect to the phenomena being analysed.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS: NATURE AND SCOPE

Comparative politics shares the subject-matter and concerns of political science, i.e., democracy, constitutions, political parties and social movements. Thus, the subject-matter, language, vocabulary and perspective are inadequate in establishing the distinctiveness of comparative politics within the broad discipline of Political Science. However, it is the specificity of comparative political analysis marked out by its conscious use of the comparative method to answer questions differentiate it from the main subject of political science.

Comparisons: Identification of Relationships

Comparative politics for a long time was looking for similarities and differences and directed this towards classifying, dichotomizing or polarising political phenomena. However, comparative political analysis is not simply about identifying similarities and

Comparative Politics and Comparative Government

Comparative government is limited to comparative study of governments, whereas comparative politics involves the study of all forms of political activity, governmental and non-governmental.

Initially, comparative politics studied governments and regime types and confined itself to studying western countries. During the Second World War, decolonization generated interest in the study of new nations. At that time, the expansion in the sphere of politics included not only the state and its institutions but also individuals, social groupings, political parties, interest groups and social movements. Certain aspects of institutions and political process were especially in focus for their usefulness in explaining political processes. For example, political socialisation, styles of political recruitment, patterns of political culture, techniques of interest articulation and interest aggregation, extent of political efficacy and political

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apathy and ruling elites. Divergent ideological poles such as western capitalism and Soviet socialism, the rejection of western imperialism by the newly liberated countries, their concern with maintaining their distinct identity and the sympathy among most countries with a socialist path of development, led to the irrelevance of most modernisation models for purposes of global/large level comparisons. In the fifties and sixties, attempts were made to explain political reality through the construction of large-scale models. The seventies saw the assertion of Third World-ism and the rolling back of these models. In the eighties, we saw constriction in the level of comparison to narrow or smaller units. With globalisation, however, the imperatives for large level comparisons rose and the field of comparisons has diversified with the proliferation of non-state, non-governmental actors and the increased inter-connections between nations with economic linkages and information technology revolution.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS:
A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

The nature and scope of comparative politics has changed as per the changes happened historically in its subject matter, which is determined by the *geographical space* (i.e., countries, regions) and the *dominant ideas* concerning social reality and change. Thus, the main focus of the studies has kept changing.

The Origins of Comparative Study of Politics

Comparative politics originated in ancient Greece with Aristotle who studied the Constitutions of 150 states and classified them into a typology of regimes. He classified regimes and political systems in terms of their types as democracy, aristocracy and monarchy and differentiated them on certain norms of good governance. He also divided regimes into good and bad - ideal and perverted. Aristotle's views were picked by Romans like Polybius (201-120 B.C.) and Cicero (106-43 B.C.) who considered them in formal and legalistic terms. In the 15th century, Machiavelli (1469-1527) compared different types of principalities such as hereditary, new, mixed and ecclesiastic ones and republics. Later thinkers like John Locke and Max Weber worked on these ancient studies.

The Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Comparative politics focused was centred on European countries which dominated the world politics. Liberalism was the main ideology during this period. Comparative politics studied institutions, distribution

of power and relationship between the different layers of government. For examples, James Bryce's *Modern Democracies* (1921), Herman Finer's *Theory and Practice of Modern Governments* (1932) and Carl J. Friedrich's *Constitutional Government and Democracy* (1937), Roberto Michels', *Political Parties* (1915) and Maurice Duverger's *Political Parties* (1950) studied institutions, governments and regime types in European countries. These studies excluded from their analysis a large number of countries.

The Second World War and After

The 1930s saw the change in politics and economy. Socialism emerged as a critical alternative to western liberalism and capitalism. European (British) hegemony started declining and the United States of America emerged as the 'new hegemon' in world politics and economy. The notions of development, modernisation, nation-building and state-building became popular. Many in Asia, America and Latin America favoured Socialism, but several newly independent countries stayed away from both the power blocs. Comparative politics until the 1940s focused on institutions, legal-constitutional principles regulating them and the manner in which they functioned in western (European) liberal-democracies.

In mid-1950s, the institutional approach was criticised. The critique based on behaviouralism intended to provide scientific rigour to the discipline and develop a science of politics. The behaviouralists developed an enquiry which was quantitative, based on survey techniques involving the examination of empirical facts separated from values, to provide value-neutral, non-prescriptive, objective observations and explanations. They studied social reality by seeking answers to questions like why people behave politically as they do, and why as a result, political processes and systems function as they do. The concept of politics was broadened by the emphasis on 'realism' or politics 'in practice' as distinguished from just 'legalism'. This included the functioning of less formally structured agencies, behaviours and processes such as political parties, elections, interest groups, voting behaviour and attitudes.

The notion of the 'system' replaced the notion of the state. It enabled scholars to focus on the 'extra-legal', 'social' and 'cultural' institutions, critical to the understanding of non-western politics. With the change of focus on actual practices and functions of institutions, scholars studied the legal powers of these institutions, what they actually did, how they were related to one

another and their roles in the making and execution of public policy. This led to the emergence of structural-functionalism approach. Some theoretical and conceptual approaches were developed: Study of political culture, political socialisation, developmentalism, dependency and interdependency, corporatism, bureaucratic-authoritarianism and later transitions to democracy.

Post-Behaviouralism

Behaviouralist wanted to bring scientific rigour in political science to anticipate or study the social and political turmoil of the times with its new environmental and feminist movements, anti-war perspective and civil rights concerns. They tried to reconcile two forces: Making political science more rigorous and making it more relevant led to the post-behavioural movement.

The 1970s and Challenges to Developmentalism

The 1970s saw criticism against developmentalism for favouring abstract models, which studied political/social/cultural systems as a single universalistic framework. These criticisms studied the ethnocentrism of these models and focused on the Third World to work out a theory of underdevelopment. Their focus was on solutions to the backwardness of developing countries.

In the early 1970s, dependency and corporatism were the two main challenges to developmentalism. Dependency theory criticised the dominant model of developmentalism for ignoring domestic class factors and international market and power factors in development. It criticised particularly the US foreign policy and multinational corporations and suggested that the development of the already-industrialised nations and that of the developing ones could not go together. Marxist critics suggested that the nature of exploitation through surplus extraction should not be seen simply on national lines but as part of a more complex pattern of alliances between the metropolitan bourgeoisie of the core/centre and the indigenous bourgeoisie of the periphery/ satellite as they operated in a global capitalist system. Corporatism pointed out that there were alternative organic, corporatist, often authoritarian ways to organise the state and state-society relations and criticised developmentalism for its Euro-American ethnocentrism.

The 1980s: The Return of the State

Several theories and subject-matters emerged in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Some of them are bureaucratic-authoritarianism, indigenous concepts of

change, transitions to democracy, the politics of structural adjustment, neoliberalism and privatisation. For some scholars, these developments undermined and broke the unity of the field which was dominated by developmentalism. For others, they added healthy diversity, providing alternative approaches and covering new subject areas.

The Late Twentieth century:

Globalisation and Emerging Trends

Scaling down of Systems: Between 1960s and 1980s, the development of comparative political analysis included more variables like policy, ideology and governing experience. With the 1980s, focus shifted from general theory to the relevance of context. The tendency reflects the renewed influence of historical inquiry in the social sciences. More in-depth understanding of countries was made. Focus on grand systems and model building declined. Stress was put on specific contexts and cultures. The scale of comparisons was brought down, but comparisons at the level of smaller regions remained.

Civil Society and Democratisation Approach

(es): The notion of the end of history emerged with the disintegration of Soviet Union. Francis Fukuyama argued that the history of ideas ended with the recognition and triumph of liberal democracy as the final form of human government. Western liberal scholars suggested that the economic development of the west had resolved political problems like the issues of freedom and state power and workers' rights which are assumed to accompany industrialisation. Daniel Bell said there was an ideological consensus, or the suspension of a need for ideological differences over issues of political practice.

In the early 1990s, the idea of the 'end of history' was accompanied with another phenomenon of the 1980s, 'globalisation'. The approaches to the study of civil society and democratisation gave importance to the protection of individual rights. There were also the resurgence of peoples movements seeking autonomy, right to indigenous culture, movements of tribes, dalits, lower castes and the women's movement and the environment movement.

Information Collection and Diffusion: The unprecedented developments in information and communication technology such as the Internet and World Wide Web has made the production, collection and analysis of data easier and assured their faster and wider diffusion. These developments have enhanced the availability of data and made possible the emergence

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of new issues and themes which extend beyond the confines of the nation-state. This made it possible the formation of the global network of social movement organisations and the global network of activists.

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS: UTILITY

Comparative politics enhance our understanding of political reality. Political behaviour is common to all human beings and manifests itself in diverse ways and under diverse social and institutional set-ups. Understanding these different political behaviours and patterns helps in understanding of politics.

Comparing for Theoretical Formulation

A comparative study of politics makes comparisons to arrive at conclusions which can be generalised. A comparative study makes generalisations based on the observation of more than one phenomenon or observation of relationship between several phenomena. The broader the observed universe, the greater is the confidence in statements about relationship and sounder the theories. However, it is not sufficient to just collect information about countries.

Comparative political analysis focuses on theory-building and theory-testing with the countries acting as units or cases.

Comparisons for Scientific Rigour

Comparative method gives these theories scientific basis and rigor. According to social scientists who emphasise scientific precision, validity and reliability, comparisons are indispensable in the social sciences because they provide the unique opportunity of control in the study of social phenomena.

Comparisons Leading to Explanations in Relationships

Comparative politics for long time looked for similarities and differences. Comparative political analysis, however, goes beyond identifying similarities and differences and helps deepen our understanding and broaden the levels of answering and explaining political phenomena.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1. How is comparative government different from comparative politics?

Ans. Comparative politics studies and compares different theories and political practices of countries or/and nation-states, whereas comparative government is the study, analysis and comparison of different Government systems. Thus, comparative politics is a

wider body whereas comparative government is one of its sub-divisions. Comparative politics encompasses studying political aspects in terms of governance, foreign policies, etc., but comparative government only compares different forms of governmental bodies in the world.

Q. 2. Is it possible to say that comparative politics refers only to a method of studying governments?

Ans. Comparative politics is only a method of studying governments. It is a broader concept. It covers a wide range of issues related to governance, political process, policy formulations, institutions, regimes and so on. It includes everything political, which involves all political phenomena.

Q. 3. The nature, field and scope of comparative politics had evolved in response to the changing socio-political concerns over different historical periods. Comment.

Ans. The nature, field and scope of comparative politics had evolved in response to the changing socio-political concerns over different historical periods. The evolution and development of comparative politics can be seen both in terms of geographical space as well as ideas and theories. Comparative politics has undergone significant developments during different periods of history. For example, liberalism was the reigning ideology in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Comparative studies were largely concerned with a comparative study of institutions, distribution of power and relationship between the different layers of government. The studies were not genuinely comparative as they excluded from their analysis a large number of countries. The political and economic situation changed in the 1930s. Socialism became an ideology of the oppressed and a critical alternative to western liberalism and capitalism. In the middle of 1950s, a powerful critique of the institutional approach emerged. The critique based on behaviouralism aimed to provide scientific rigour to the discipline and develop a science of politics. The behaviouralists developed an enquiry which was quantitative, based on survey techniques involving the examination of empirical facts separated from values, to provide value-neutral, non-prescriptive, objective observations and explanations. They studied social reality by seeking answers to questions like why people behave politically as they do, and why as a result, political processes and systems function as they do. In the 1970s, developmentalism was criticised for favouring abstract models, which