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# **POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

**B.S.O.C.-105**

**B.A. Sociology (Hons.) - 3rd Semester**

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*By: Taruna Jain*



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## Content

# **POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

### *Question Bank – (Previous Year Solved Question Papers)*

Question Paper–June-2023 (Solved) .....	1
Question Paper–December-2022 (Solved) .....	1
Question Paper—Exam Held in July-2022 (Solved) .....	1
Question Paper—Exam Held in March-2022 (Solved) .....	1
Sample Question Paper–1 (Solved) .....	1

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<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
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### **BLOCK-I : UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1. Polity and Society .....	1
2. Political Sociology: Nature and Scope .....	12

### **BLOCK-II : BASIC CONCEPTS**

3. State and Citizenship .....	22
4. Power and Authority .....	34
5. Governance, Government and Governmentality .....	47
6. Elites, Ruling Classes and Masses .....	57

### **BLOCK-III : POLITICAL SYSTEM**

7. Segmentary .....	68
8. Totalitarianism .....	81
9. Democratic .....	96

**BLOCK-IV : EVERYDAY STATE AND LOCAL STRUCTURE OF POWER**

10. State and Society in India .....	110
11. Local Self-Government .....	121
12. Social Movements and Resistance .....	133



**Sample Preview  
of the  
Solved  
Sample Question  
Papers**

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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

## POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

B.S.O.C.-105

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any **five** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

**Q. 1. Discuss the notions of power and authority in the context of politics.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'The Notion of Power', Page No. 2, 'Concept of Authority' and Page No. 5, Q. No. 3.

**Q. 2. Discuss the nature and scope of Political Sociology.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'Meaning of Political Sociology' and 'Scope of Political Sociology'.

**Q. 3. Examine the Marxist view on the origin of the state.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 23, 'Marxist View'.

**Q. 4. Discuss the types of authority with suitable examples.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 35, 'Types of Authority', 'Traditional Authority', Page No. 36, 'Charismatic Authority' and 'Rational Legal Authority'.

**Q. 5. Describe Foucault's view on governmentality.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 48, 'Governmentality'.

**Q. 6. How does social network help in maintenance of the elite status? Discuss.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-6, Page No. 59, 'Social Networks and Knowledge', 'Maintenance of Elitism' and Page No. 63, Q. No. 13.

**Q. 7. Discuss political principles of stateless society.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-7, Page No. 69, 'Political Principles of Stateless Society'.

**Q. 8. Describe the field-view of local self-governance in India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-11, Page No. 123, 'Field View of Local Self-governance in India'.

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# QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

B.S.O.C.-105

**Time: 3 Hours ]**

**[ Maximum Marks: 100**

**Note:** Answer any **five** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

**Q. 1. Discuss the scope of Political Sociology.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'Scope of Political Sociology'.

**Q. 2. What is citizenship? Discuss.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 24, 'Citizenship'.

**Q. 3. Describe the types of authority with suitable examples.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 35, 'Types of Authority'.

**Q. 4. What do you mean by governmentality? Discuss.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 48, 'Governmentality'.

**Q. 5. Describe different types of elites.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-6, Page No. 58, 'Types of Elites'.

**Q. 6. How do certain tribes fit into the category of segmentary societies in contemporary India? Discuss.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-7, Page No. 70, 'Segmentary Tribes in India'.

**Q. 7. Outline the main features of social movements.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-12, Page No. 133, 'Definition of Social Movements'.

**Q. 8. Discuss the elements of a democratic political system.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-9, Page No. 97, 'Elements of a Democratic Political System'.

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# Sample Preview of The Chapter

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# POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

## BLOCK-1 : UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

### Polity and Society



#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the relationship between polity and society. The three concepts related to each other i.e., nations, state and society are also discussed in this chapter. Then we will relate between globalisation, polity and society. There are many theories that explain the reason behind the human beings living together in the society. Some of the reasons in the beginning were the physical similarities, the fear of the animals that forced them to form small groups. But when the groups were formed, the issue of creating the order system arose, which meant that who will lead the group and who will be the subordinates. The theory is called as the theory of force, which meant that the weak people were ruled by the powerful ones. Thomas Hobbes gave the theory of social contract, which suggested that all the individuals will give their consent to a particular situation and this will lead to the construction of other rights and will be protected by the leader or the governing body. Therefore, the state helps in regulating and controlling our life in a comprehensive manner. The state is therefore an agency, that is made up of a system of order and a defined structure. The society refers to a group of people living together for cooperation and for their existence. The state can be defined as a well structured and controlled device that forms a kind of citizenship.

#### CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

##### THE POLITICAL DOMAIN

The term polity is derived from the Greek word 'polis' which means an uncorrupted form of government, in which a group of people rule together for the common cause of the public. Hence, we can say that the term polity refers to the political system.

##### What is a Political System?

People coordinate and interact with each other in order to establish social relationship. In the process, they also pursue their own interests, which are contrary to the interests of the people. This leads to the conflict between the two. The conflict can be resolved by orderly arrangement of the social relationships. In order to achieve this, it is important to exercise power and impose some restrictions on the behaviour of the people. The development of the political system takes place, when the relationship between the individuals and the groups is organized as per the power and its manifestations. These include the meetings at various levels. Let us first understand the notion of power and its relation with the political system, and then look at its connection with the specific case of the nation-states.

##### The Notion of Power

Power can be defined as the ability to do something or anything or act upon a person or things. In this manner, it refers to the influence that any person, group or organization brings to bear on the action of others. The social power can be referred to as making another person do what is wanted, and is therefore an aspect of interpersonal relationships. Let us now understand what will happen if one has to use the social power as the criterion to define the political system. This means that all the human actions and interactions would come under the politics.

**Delimiting the Domain of Politics:** According to the Political scientists, this view of politics is common and broad in nature. They believe that politics refers to the domain where the social power is used in the public domain rather than in the private domain. The problems or the conflicts in the family is therefore not in the domain of the politics. Politics is, when a family or its representative takes part in the affairs of

2 / NEERAJ : POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

the neighbourhood or the village. In this manner, the power and its various manifestations like authority, coercion, force, etc. are the terms referred in the politics.

**Concept of Authority:** Authority refers to the legitimacy of the use of power. In order to exercise power, the people also acknowledge the right of the political authority. The power therefore, becomes authority as the people involved in it accept the legitimacy to the issued instructions. They are not forced to do it rather are willing to do so. These types of political relations are referred to as the political systems.

**More Restricted View of Politics:** The sociologists like Max Weber restricted the political relations to an organization of individuals. He added that it has to be based on the ultimate sanction of the physical force. We can therefore say that Max Weber refers to the notion of the state as it has come out in the modern sense. The political relationships are also present in the societies in which the specialized political institution does not exist. There are many tribal societies, in which the political authority is not based on the territory.

**STATE, NATION AND SOCIETY**

When we talk about the politics in the modern times, we talk about the state, nation and society. Let us first understand these three terms:

**(i) State:** The state refers to a political organization with following features:

- It is a territorial jurisdiction.
- It is a non-voluntary membership.
- There are certain norms that define the rights of its members with the help of its Constitution.
- It claims to legitimacy of the power over its members.
- A citizen is the member of the state.

**(ii) Nation:** Nation can be defined as having a group of people with the same culture, religion, language and state, etc. The national identity of any group is identified on the basis of the place of residence, ethnic origin, culture, religion and language.

**(iii) Society:** The society includes many social organizations like kinship, family, economy and polity. Therefore, the term refers to the connected social relationships. The term society in general refers to the state or nation, and can be in continuation with either or both. The state also includes a number of societies like the societies base on religion, region, language, etc.

**POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

**Sociological Exploration**

There are some Western philosophers who debated about the concept of the state and the role within the

society. Some of them include Aristotle, Plato, Tocqueville, August Comte, Morgan and Herbert Spencer. These sociologists tried to locate the state system and its relation with the society. Some others who understood the relationship of the polity and the society are Hobhouse, Michael, Pareto, Max Weber, Mannheim and Parsons. They all worked towards understanding the role of the society with the state. The making of the institution that implements their rules and regulations, the system of the state preserves the plurality to connect with the different sections of the society. The state therefore works as a unit of the society, which is responsible for implementing the rights of the people. Karl Marx also stressed on the role of the state to decide political economy of the society.

The term 'state' refers to the complex of organizations, personnel, regulations and practices with the help of which the political power is exercised in a territory. Hence, the responsibility of the power is to mobilise its resources in order to serve the common people. Therefore, the objective of the state and the policy is to preserve the notion of the welfare and lead the entire society towards progress. The nature of the society also helps in determining the role of the polity, and it also affects the common public. The state makes use of its power and authority in order to fulfill the interest of the common people of the society. There are always differences between the nature of politics and the interest of the people, which results in conflict between the two and affects the function of the state and its polity.

**Anthropological Exploration**

In the Anthropological studies also the relationship between polity and the society is debatable. The study in Anthropology there are many proofs of the existence of the stateless society that works as a political system, and was not organised systematically. The development in the modern society brought forward a form of the state and the notion of the state. The three sociologists who tried to understand the need of the society and the social relation within the society in subjective forms are Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.

**SOCIETY, CITIZENSHIP AND DEMOCRACY**

The society is made up of people living with each other in an organized form. These people follow certain rules and regulations. Citizenship can be defined as a political right of the people within a state territory. There are certain rules and regulations performed by the state in order to exercise their power over the people. The nature of democracy is defined by the type of rights

enjoyed by the individual as a citizen of a particular state. With the help of the policies and programmes, the state defines the time and the rights of the citizen over their life and the resources that are available for them. There are many aspects of citizenship at the political level. These rights help us in availing the citizenship and living in a particular region, but that does not mean that the people have all the rights to enjoy a dignified life. The citizenship of the people depends upon the social condition and state intervention in order to uplift their condition.

#### **Political Institutions: Issues and Perspective**

In order to understand the relationship between polity and society, we need to find out the issue that characterizes political institutions and make them more socially sensitive. As India has a diverse society, there are many issues like poverty, caste system, ethnicity, regional influences, political institutions, etc. There are many challenges in the roles and responsibility of government, judiciary, bureaucracy to deliver justice, equality in resources and opportunities. In order to make an egalitarian society, which is bounded by the various orthodox traditions and convince them to the modern way of dealing with the problem has been another challenge in India.

There are many factors that the political institutions in India have adopted. The factors like nepotism, corruption has made political party corrupt and they by the time loose people's faith so that resulted in polices too where political parties is doing politics on caste and religion line rather than poverty elevation and employment generation. This means that the political institution are more focused towards the social issues related to the traditions rather than long term issues of social transformation which needs a genuine effort.

#### **Social Issues and Polity in India**

The society in India is diverse in nature and there are various forms of social categories that are included in the form of social inequality. Some of the examples are caste, class, gender, ethnicity, etc. and also see the politics of interest in different communities. The state with the help of the polity tries to solve the question of inequality and deprivation. Caste system is the basis of the Indian society, which is based on the principles of hierarchy and inequality. Indian democracy has developed the questioning of caste based inequality and discrimination in the form of exploitation, humiliation and other forms of deprivation. The main challenge for the government is caste system. In order to overcome

these social evils, there are various reforms in the society happened that addressed the caste inequality such as reservation policy that have taken the key idea from an affirmative action of American social policy to bring reform in the larger social and economic pattern. The main objective of this reservation policy was to remove the inequality and discriminations that existed with Indian social structure. There are different measures which have been taken in this regard and to remove the dogmas of different social values. Later on, these movements led to the reservation giving the opportunities in jobs for just economic upliftment which became a challenge against policy makers that expose a lineal to understand nature about Indian society and its contradictions. The implementation of these policies at different levels has been a challenging not just for the policy, but also for the government.

Another problem in the Indian society is the gender question with its own complexities, patriarchy which is known as a root cause of exploitation of women. There are various scholars, who believed that the patriarchy has its own cultural and social root that still maintain its structure and cultural relation. There are many social reforms happened during the colonial period that tried bringing a new social and cultural condition for women. Class is a social category, which is based on income. The Indian society has classwise inequality that is widespread across social categories i.e. gender, ethnicity, caste, etc. In the political discourse class based social position is related to the ruler in all aspects.

#### **GLOBALIZATION, POLITY AND SOCIETY**

Globalization is not a new process, but with the increase in the use of the technology, internet and rapid transformation has given a new character of globalization in which there is cosmopolitisation as well as resistance against the global culture. In turn, this has led to the orthodox movement that form a sense among marginalized to return towards the conservative roots of tradition forms of development like yoga, pilgrimage and ayurveda. With the process of globalization, the space of government is contracting and with the emergence of the new global tendencies in business and migration, there is the need for nationalist ideologies.

According to Anthony Giddnes, the larger effect of modernity is globalization. The different forms and pattern of Globalization has led to the redefinition of not just the social life, but also cultural practices. This is called time and space distanciation. Giddnes also

4 / NEERAJ : POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

said that the increasing interdependence is globalization, which is in social and economic relations.

The role of the state and its functional devices are also redefined due to the process of globalization. This reflects the issue of development. The process of globalization is the result of neo-liberal idea of policy based on economic development, which has changed the nature of governance. The increasing role of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in policies and programme also reflects about these policies. Globalization has also assaulted local market and social traditions to replace by the modern market and cultural practices. It has also provided the global connection to the every issue of social-cultural development, which can be seen in the case of climate change and human rights issues. There are many development programmes organized by the Central and State government in India, which reflects that there is increasing tendency to create a global scale of poverty, migration, employment and women exploitation and minority issues.

The changing nature of governance including the pattern of administration is no more to administer rather than facilitator of policy and programme suggested by the global agencies. These are connected to developmental policies at world level, but it seems that it is moreover with the economic growth rather than tackling age old social question. Therefore, many human rights movements going on at different parts of India led to the strong and militant struggle in order to save local resources from the big and multinational corporations.

**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

**Q. 1. What are the two essential requirements for an orderly arrangement of social relationships?**

**Ans.** Society may be viewed as a system of interrelated mutually dependent parts, which cooperate to preserve a recognisable whole and to satisfy some purposes or goal. Social system or relationship may be described as an arrangement of social interactions based on shared norms and values. Individuals constitute it and each has place and function to perform within it. A social system is an orderly and systematic arrangement of social interaction and the relationship between them. Social system is made up of a plurality of individuals. They interact with others according to shared norms and means are various sub-systems of a social system. In the social system each of the interacting individual has function or role to perform in terms of the status, he occupies in the system. For

example, in the family parents, sons and daughters are required to perform certain socially recognised functions or roles. Social system is a comprehensive arrangement. It takes its orbit all the diverse subsystems such as the economic, political, religious and others and their interrelation too. Social systems are bound by environment such as geography and this differentiates one system from another. There are many elements that are important in the social relationship. The people interacting and living with each other needs to coordinate with each other in performing different activities. In the process their will be various conflicts of the interest, which needs to be resolved so that the interaction takes place in an orderly manner.

**Q. 2. What is a Political System?**

**Ans.** Political system is defined as the set of formal legal institutions that constitute a 'government' or a 'state.' A society comprises of citizen, nature, economy, rights, responsibilities and policies. For better governance of every policy regarding society, a group of members collectively in an institution is elected by the voters and rules the state or country.

Political system is an essential part of a country. It safeguards citizen rights and responsibilities at the same time. It provides essential rights to the citizen of a country. For example in India, there are many rights namely the Right to speech, the Right against exploitation, the Right to freedom, etc. In the same way, political parties also ensure some of the basic responsibilities of the citizens.

Some of the responsibilities assigned to the citizen are important for the growth of the country. And if they fail to obey the regulations, they are either charged a fine or given some serious punishment.

Each society must have a political system in order to maintain recognized procedures for allocating valued resources. In large complex societies, many decisions must be made about the duties and responsibilities of citizens and also about the rights and privileges.

If the society is to be orderly, people must obey the rules that are made. The political institution determines and enforces the laws and punishes those who disobey them.

Even in stateless societies, which had no developed formal central institutions were seen having some kind of decision-making and rule-making processes, which were dominated by some members. As societies become wealthier and more complex, political systems develop and grow more powerful.