
FIRST SEMESTER

PAPER: PLS-IDC-101

Based on the FYUG Syllabus, NEP -2020 (w.e.f. 2023-2024)

Assam University

Syllabus
POLITICAL SCIENCE
PLS: IDC-101: POLITICAL THEORY – BASIC CONCEPTS
(Assam University, Silchar)

Full Mark: 100

ESE-70, Internal-30

Credit: 3

Unit-I: Political Science: Meaning, Nature, Scope and Relevance, Relation with History, Economics & Sociology.

Unit-II: Idea of State: Definition, Elements of the state, Theories of Origin of state: The Divine Theory, The Social Contract and The Evolutionary.

Unit-III: Theories of Nature of the state: Idealist, Organismic, Juridical and Marxian.

Unit-IV: Sovereign: Meaning, Definition and Kinds of Sovereignty, Austin's theory and Pluralistic Theory of Sovereignty.

Unit-V: Forms of Government: Democratic and Dictatorial; Unitary and Federal; Parliamentary and Presidential.

Unit-I:

A. Very Short Type Answer (VSTA) Question:

1. Who first used the term 'Politics'?
2. What is the root of the term 'politics'.
3. Who is the father of political science?
4. Who is the author of 'The Politics'?
5. Who is the author of 'Politics – who gets what, when and how'?
6. Who said, "political science begins and ends with the state"?
7. Who said, "political science is that part of social science which treats of the foundation of the state and the principles of government"?
8. Who has described 'political sciences as a progressive science'?
9. Who said, "political science deals with power, rule or authority"?
10. Who said, history is the past politics and politics is present history"?
11. Who said, "Political Science is impossible without history"?
12. Who said, "history gives the third dimension to political science"?
13. Name two writers who regard political science as a science.
14. To which category of science, political science belongs?
15. Is political science an experimental science?
16. Is political science a natural science?
17. Who opines that political science has the characteristics of both science and art?
18. Who defines political science as the study of shaping and sharing of power?
19. Who considers political "an observational" science?
20. Who says, "political science is a science in the same sense as meteorology?"
21. Who regards political science as both a science and an art.

B. Short Type Answer (STA) Question:

1. Analyse Garner's definition of Political Science.
2. Point out two differences between Politics and Political Science.
3. Give two arguments to show that Political Science is not a science.
4. Give two arguments to show that Political Science is a science.
5. Is Political Science an Art?
6. Mention two points about the nature of Political Science.
7. Point out two differences between Political Science and History.
8. Distinguish between Political Science and Sociology.
9. Write two differences between Political Science and Economics.
10. Write two points to show the relevance of Political Science.

C. Board / Essay Type Answer Question:

1. Define political science and discuss its nature and scope.
2. What is political science? Is political science a science?
3. Examine the relation of political science with (a) History and (b) Economics.
4. Explain the relation of Political Science with sociology.
5. Give a few definitions of Political Science. Which definition is the best and why?
6. Explain the Marxist views about Politics and Political Science.
7. What is Political Science? Is Political Science both a science and an art?

Unit-II:

A. Very Short Type Answer (VSTA) Question:

1. Who first used the term 'state'?
2. Who define the state as "a union of families and villages having self-sufficing life by which we mean a happy and honourable life?"
3. Who defined the state as "a people organized for law within a definite territory?"
4. Who has given the most acceptable definition of 'state'?
5. Which theory gives a satisfactory explanation about the origin of the state?
6. Who are known as 'social contractualists'?
7. Who said, "power comes out of the barrel of a gun"?
8. Which theory says that the state is a product of evolution?
9. Who is the author of 'Leviathan'?
10. Who has propounded the theory of legal sovereignty?
11. Who said the state 'the state is the march of God on earth'?
12. Who wrote "the social contract"?
13. Who said, "I am the state"?
14. Which revolution was justified by Rousseau's theory of General Will?

B. Short Type Answer (STA) Question:

1. Write Garner's definition of state.
2. Mention any two functions of civil society.
3. Mention any two essential elements of the state.
4. Mention any two theories about the origin of the state.
5. Mention any two theories of the nature of the state.
6. Write any two principles of the Marxist theory of the state.

7. Why is meant by 'recognition'?
8. Why is Assam not a state.
9. What is 'sovereignty'?
10. Mention two differences between state and government.
11. Explain Hobbes state of nature.
12. Explain Locke's state of nature.
13. Describe Rousseau's state of nature.
14. Write any two drawbacks of the social contract theory.
15. Explain the significance of the social contract theory.
16. Write a note on the role of kinship in the evolution of the state.

C. C. Board / Essay Type Answer Question:

1. Define state. Explain the essential elements of the state.
2. Mention any two theories of the origin of the state. Explain any one of them.
3. Explain the main elements of the state? Is Assam a state?
4. Discuss the divine origine theory of the state.
5. Explain the social contract theory of the origin of the state.
6. Write a note on the historical or evolutionary theory of the origin of the state.
7. Write a note on the importance of the social contract theory.

Unit-III:

A. Very Short Type Answer (VSTA) Question:

1. Which theory considers the state as a legal person?
2. Which theory of the nature of the state looks upon the state as a living organism?
3. Who said, "the state is not an artificial mechanism created by man. It is the highest embodiment of the idea of God"?
4. Which theory of the nature of the state considers the state as an instrument of exploitation?
5. Who is the chief exponent of the organismic theory regarding the nature of the state?
6. Which theory of the nature of the state advocates the withering away of the state?
7. Which school of thought advocates a stateless society?
8. Which theory of the nature of the state is also known as metaphysical theory?
9. Which theory of the nature of the state regards the state as a class institution?
10. Who said, "will, not force, is the basis of the state"?
11. Who regarded the state as a the "march of God on earth"?
12. Who wrote "The Communist Manifesto"?
13. Who wrote "the origin of family, private property and the state"?
14. Who said, "the state can use force to create freedom"?
15. Who said, "Everything within the state, nothing against it, and nothing outside it"?
16. Who has defined the state as "the politically organised people of definite territory"?
17. Who has defined the state as "a people organised for law within a definite territory"?
18. Who first used the term "State"?
19. Who is the author of the "The Prince"?
20. Whose definition of state is considered to be comprehensive?

21. Who regards the state as “a complete image of the human organism”?
22. Who consider the state as a legal fiction?
23. Who is the father of ‘Fascism’?

B. Short Type Answer (STA) Question:

1. Mention two features of the idealistic theory of the nature of the state.
2. Name two exponents of the idealistic theory of the state.
3. Mention two merits of the idealistic theory.
4. Mentions two demerits of the idealistic theory.
5. Name two exponents of the judicial theory of the state.
6. Write two principles of the judicial theory of the state.
7. Mention two features of the organismic theory of the state.
8. Write two demerits of the organismic theory of the state.
9. Point out two features of the Marxist theory of the state.
10. Write two demerits of the Marxian theory.
11. What is the importance of the Marxian theory of state.

C. Board / Essay Type Answer Question:

1. Explain the juridical theory about the nature of the state. What are the demerits?
2. Examine the organismic theory regarding the nature of the state. What are the limitations of this theory?
3. Critically examine the idealistic theory of the nature of the state.
4. State and criticise the Marxian theory regarding the nature of the state.
5. “The state is a class institution” (Marx). Comment.

Unit-IV:

A. Very Short Type Answer (VSTA) Question:

1. The word ‘sovereignty’ is derived from the Latin word _____.
2. What are the two aspects of sovereignty?
3. Which type of sovereignty is recognised by law?
4. Given an example of titular sovereignty.
5. What is the basis of the facto sovereignty?
6. To which language does the word ‘superanus’ belong?
7. Who is the chief exponent of the concept of popular sovereignty.
8. Hobbes is a supporter of _____ sovereignty.
9. Among Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, who is a supporter of political sovereignty?
10. Who is the chief exponent of the legal theory of sovereignty.
11. Which type of sovereignty is the basis of democracy.
12. Who is the author of “lectures on jurisprudence”?
13. Who said, “no state, no sovereignty, no state.”?
14. Who said, “Sovereignty is the supreme power of the state over citizens and subjects unrestrained by law”?
15. Who said, “law is the command of the sovereign”?
16. Who is the author of “A grammar of Politics”?

17. Who said, "Voice of the people is the voice of God". (Vox populi, Vox dei)?"
18. Which theory of sovereignty pleads for the division of sovereignty?
19. Who said, "The British Parliament may legitimate and illegitimate child"?"
20. "The British Parliament can do anything and everything except making a man a woman and a woman a man" was said by _____.
21. Give an example of the legal sovereign.
22. Who is the author of the Leviathan?
23. In which year was John Austin's "Lectures on Jurisprudence" published?
24. Which school of philosophy advocates that sovereignty is individual?
25. "Popular sovereignty has become the basis and watchword of democracy" – who said this?
26. Which school of philosophy advocates that sovereignty is divisible?
27. "We no longer write Man vs State, we write Groups vs State", was said by _____.
28. Who said, "The discovery of sovereignty in a federation is practically an impossible adventure"?

B. B. Short Type Answer (STA) Question:

1. Write Jean Bodin's definition of sovereignty.
2. What is John Austin's definition of sovereignty?
3. Mention two characteristics of sovereignty.
4. Distinguish between 'de jure' and 'de facto' sovereignty.
5. Mention two differences between legal sovereignty and political sovereignty.
6. What is legal sovereignty.
7. What is political sovereignty?
8. What is popular sovereignty?
9. What is Monism?
10. Mention two features of John Austin's theory of sovereignty.
11. Write two merits of Austin's theory of sovereignty.
12. Write two demerits of Austin's theory of sovereignty.
13. What is Pluralistic theory of sovereignty.
14. Mentions two merits of Pluralistic theory of sovereignty.
15. Mentions two merits of Pluralistic theory of sovereignty.

C. C. Board / Essay Type Answer Question:

1. What is sovereignty? Answer the characteristics of sovereignty.
2. What is Monism? What are its characteristics? Discuss its limitation.
3. Discuss Austin's theory of sovereignty. How do the pluralists criticise it?
4. Discuss critically the pluralistic conception of sovereignty.
5. What are the characteristics of sovereignty? Distinguish between legal and political sovereignty.
6. Write a note on popular sovereignty.

Unit-V:

A. Very Short Type Answer (VSTA) Question:

1. What is the best form of government according to Aristotle?

2. Who first used the term 'democracy'?
3. What is the origin of the word 'democracy'?
4. Is dictatorship popular in modern times?
5. What is the name of the direct democratic device through which the voters can compel their representatives to resign?
6. What is the name of the approval of a bill passed by the legislature?
7. Does dictatorship admit equality of man in society?
8. Write the name of a powerful Asian state with a unitary form of government.
9. Has India a unitary government?
10. What is the origin of the word federation?
11. Is India a federation?
12. Is dual citizenship a characteristic of a unitary state?
13. How many governments exist in a federation?
14. By what other name is the Parliamentary form of government known?
15. Is presidential form of government known as the responsible government?
16. Is the head of the state the real executive in a parliamentary government?
17. Is Presidential system based on fusion of powers?
18. Is Parliamentary system based on separation of powers?

B. B. Short Type Answer (STA) Question:

1. Mention the two principles on which Aristotle classified government.
2. What are the three normal forms of government according to Aristotle?
3. What are three perverted forms of government according to Aristotle?
4. Which type of government is the best according to Aristotle and why?
5. Write Abraham Lincoln's view of democracy.
6. Give John Seeley's definition of democracy.
7. Mention two important features of democracy.
8. State one merit and one demerit of democracy.
9. Write two reasons for which direct democracy is not possible in modern times.
10. Mention two features of dictatorship.
11. Mention any two forms of dictatorship.
12. Write two differences between democracy and dictatorship.
13. Mention two necessary conditions for the formation of a federation.
14. Point out two features of a unitary government.
15. Write two merits of a federation.
16. Mention two differences between unitary government and federal government.
17. What is parliamentary form of government?
18. Mention two features of presidential form of government.
19. Why is presidential government known as 'fixed executive' system?
20. Mention two differences between parliamentary and presidential forms of government.
21. Mention two 'holding together' federations.
22. Mention two 'coming together' federations.

C. C. Board / Essay Type Answer Question:

1. Write a note on Aristotle classification of governments.
2. Give the modern classification of governments.
3. What is democracy? What are its characteristics?

- 4. Explain different types of democracy.**
- 5. Mention the merits and demerits of democracy.**
- 6. Explain the points of difference between democracy and dictatorship.**
- 7. What is dictatorship? What are its merits and demerits?**
- 8. Define unitary government and explain its features.**
- 9. What is federal government? What are the characteristics of a federal government?**
- 10. Discuss the merits and demerits of federal government.**