

TELANGANA UNIVERSITY
S.S.R.DEGREE COLLEGE,(AUTONOMOUS) NIZAMABAD (C.C:5029)

II SEMESTER INTERNAL ASSESSMENT I EXAMINATIONS
WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (B. A. POLITICAL SCIENCE)

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Greek political thought is mainly concerned with the idea of
 - A) Empire
 - B) Nation-state
 - C) City-state (Polis)
 - D) Feudalism

2. The term *Polis* in Greek political thought refers to
 - A) A religious institution
 - B) A military camp
 - C) An independent city-state
 - D) A trading center

3. Who is considered the father of Western political philosophy?
 - A) Aristotle
 - B) Plato
 - C) Socrates
 - D) Pericles

4. Socrates is best known for his method of teaching called
 - A) Dialectics
 - B) Question and answer (Socratic Method)
 - C) Observation
 - D) Experimentation

5. Which work of Plato discusses the concept of an ideal state?
 - A) Politics
 - B) Laws
 - C) Symposium
 - D) Republic

6. According to Plato, who should rule the ideal state?
 - A) Warriors
 - B) Merchants
 - C) Priests
 - D) Philosopher-Kings

7. Plato believed justice in the state means

- A) Equality of wealth
- B) Rule of law
- C) Each class performing its proper function
- D) Popular participation

8. Plato divided society into how many classes?

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four
- D) Five

9. Aristotle described man as

- A) Economic animal
- B) Social animal
- C) Rational animal
- D) Political animal

10. Aristotle' s famous book on political theory is

- A) Republic
- B) Laws
- C) Politics
- D) Ethics

11. Medieval political thought was strongly influenced by

- A) Rationalism
- B) Humanism
- C) Religion
- D) Capitalism

12. Which religion dominated Medieval political thought in Europe?

- A) Islam
- B) Judaism
- C) Buddhism
- D) Christianity

13. Who wrote *The City of God*?

- A) Aquinas
- B) St. Augustine
- C) Machiavelli
- D) Hobbes

14. According to St. Augustine, the ideal state is based on

- A) Power
- B) Law
- C) Divine will
- D) Popular consent

15. St. Augustine distinguished between

- A) Democracy and monarchy
- B) Church and state
- C) City of God and City of Man
- D) Rich and poor

16. Who attempted to reconcile Christianity with Aristotle's philosophy?

- A) St. Augustine
- B) Machiavelli
- C) Hobbes
- D) St. Thomas Aquinas

17. Aquinas supported which concept?

- A) Absolute monarchy
- B) Natural law
- C) Social contract
- D) Legal positivism

18. Social Contract theory explains

- A) Origin of religion
- B) Origin of family
- C) Origin of state
- D) Origin of economy

19. Who is considered the earliest modern social contractualist?

- A) Locke
- B) Rousseau
- C) Hobbes
- D) Montesquieu

20. Thomas Hobbes wrote

- A) Two Treatises
- B) Social Contract
- C) Leviathan
- D) The Prince

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. The Greek city-state was known as the _____.
2. Greek political thought mainly developed in the _____ period.
3. _____ is called the father of Western political philosophy.
4. Socrates followed the method of _____ to teach his students.
5. Plato's most famous work on political philosophy is _____.
6. According to Plato, the ideal rulers of the state are _____.
7. Plato divided society into _____ classes.
8. Justice in Plato's state means _____.
9. Aristotle described man as a _____ animal.
10. Aristotle's famous book on political theory is _____.
11. Medieval political thought was dominated by _____.
12. The religion that influenced medieval European political thought was _____.
13. _____ wrote *The City of God*.
14. St. Augustine distinguished between the _____ and the _____.
15. According to St. Augustine, the ideal state is based on _____ will.
16. _____ tried to reconcile Christianity with Aristotle's philosophy.
17. Aquinas supported the theory of _____ law.
18. According to Aquinas, unjust laws _____ be obeyed.
19. Medieval political thought believed sovereignty rested with _____.
20. The theory supporting absolute monarchy in medieval times was the _____ Theory.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the relationship between the state and society according to greek?
2. Who were Sophists and what did they teach?
3. Explain the St.Thomas Aquinas classification of law?
4. What are the views of Machiavelli on Human nature?
5. Life and works of Hobbes?

1. What are the relationship between the state and society according to greek?

A. Relation between State and Society

The relationship between state and society is one of the most important topics in Political Science and Political Sociology.

1. Meaning of State

The State is a political organization that has:

- Definite territory
- Population
- Government
- Sovereignty

It has the authority to make laws and enforce them.

2. Meaning of Society

Society refers to the network of social relationships among people. It includes:

- Family
- Religion
- Education
- Economy
- Culture
- Associations

Society is broader than the state.

Nature of Relationship Between State and Society

1. State is Part of Society

The state is a political institution within society. Society existed even before the state developed.

Example: Primitive societies existed without a formal state.

2. State Controls Society

The state:

- Makes laws
- Maintains law and order
- Regulates economic and social activities
- Protects rights

Example: The India government makes laws regarding education, marriage, property, etc.

3. Society Influences the State

Society shapes state policies through:

- Public opinion
- Elections

- Social movements
- Pressure groups

Example: Social reform movements influenced laws during British rule in India.

4. Theoretical Views

(a) Liberal View

Liberals believe the state exists to protect individual rights.

Example: Ideas of John Locke.

(b) Marxist View

According to Karl Marx, the state serves the interests of the ruling class.

(c) Idealist View

Thinkers like G. W. F. Hegel believed the state represents the highest form of social organization.

Differences Between State and Society

State	Society
Political organization	Social organization
Has sovereignty	No sovereignty
Makes and enforces laws	Follows social norms
Limited to territory	Broader and universal

2. Who were Sophists and what did they teach?

A. The **Sophists** were a group of professional teachers and thinkers in ancient Athens during the 5th century BCE.

They traveled from place to place and taught young men—especially future political leaders—how to speak effectively and succeed in public life. Unlike earlier philosophers, they charged fees for teaching.

What Did the Sophists Teach?

1. Rhetoric (Art of Public Speaking)

They taught how to argue, debate, and persuade others.

This was very important in democratic Athens, where citizens spoke in the Assembly and courts.

2. Relativism

They believed that **truth is relative**.

Example:

Protagoras said, *“Man is the measure of all things.”*

This means truth depends on individual perception.

3. Practical Knowledge

They focused on:

- Politics
- Law
- Ethics
- Grammar
- Logic

Their aim was practical success, not abstract philosophy.

4. Skill in Argument

They trained students to argue both sides of a question.

This helped in court cases and political debates.

Criticism of the Sophists

- **Socrates** criticized them for teaching persuasion without concern for truth.
- **Plato** said they were more interested in money than wisdom.

3Q. Thomas Aquinas

A. Thomas Aquinas, a medieval Christian philosopher, explained the theory of law in his famous work *Summa Theologica*.

According to him, law is “an ordinance of reason for the common good, made by him who has care of the community, and promulgated.”

He classified law into four types:

1. Eternal Law

- It is the divine wisdom of God governing the whole universe.
- It is the supreme and universal law.
- All other laws are derived from it.
- Humans cannot fully understand eternal law because it is part of God's plan.

Example: The natural order of the universe.

2. Natural Law

- It is the part of eternal law that humans can understand through reason.
- It tells us to do good and avoid evil.
- It is universal and applicable to all people.

Example:

- Respect life
- Do not steal
- Seek truth

Natural law forms the basis of moral principles.

3. Human Law

- These are laws made by governments.
- They are derived from natural law.
- They help maintain peace and order in society.

Example:

- Traffic rules
- Criminal laws
- Tax laws

If human law goes against natural law, it is unjust.

4. Divine Law

- These are laws revealed by God through scriptures.
- They guide humans toward spiritual salvation.
- Found in religious texts like the Bible.

□ Example:

- The Ten Commandments
- Religious moral rules

4. Question

A. Views of Machiavelli: Challenges to Human Rights

Niccolò Machiavelli was a Renaissance political thinker best known for his book *The Prince*.

His ideas are often seen as challenging modern concepts of human rights.

1. State Above Individual Rights

Machiavelli believed that:

- The security and stability of the state are more important than individual rights.
- A ruler must protect the state at any cost.

□ Challenge:

Modern human rights emphasize protection of individual freedom, but Machiavelli prioritizes state power.

2. Justification of Force and Fear

He argued that:

- It is better for a ruler to be feared than loved, if he cannot be both.
- Use of force, deception, and cruelty may be necessary to maintain power.

□ Challenge:

Human rights oppose torture, oppression, and fear-based rule.

3. Ends Justify the Means

Although he never used the exact phrase, Machiavelli's ideas suggest:

- If the goal is political stability, immoral actions may be justified.

□ Challenge:

Human rights are based on moral and ethical standards, not political convenience.

4. Weak View of Moral and Religious Limits

Machiavelli separated politics from morality and religion.

- Politics should be practical, not idealistic.
- Rulers should act according to necessity, not moral rules.

□ Challenge:

Human rights are strongly connected to moral principles like justice, equality, and dignity.

5. Limited Concern for Equality

He focused more on:

- Power
- Authority
- Political survival

He did not emphasize equality, liberty, or natural rights like later thinkers such as:

- John Locke
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau

5. Question

a. Life and Works of Thomas Hobbes

1. Life of Hobbes

Thomas Hobbes was an English political philosopher, born in 1588 in England.

- He lived during the time of the English Civil War, which greatly influenced his political ideas.
- He studied at Oxford University.
- He worked as a tutor to the Cavendish family.
- He was influenced by scientific thinkers like Galileo Galilei.

- He spent some time in exile in France due to political conflicts.
- He died in 1679 at the age of 91.

The political instability of England shaped his belief in a strong central authority.

2. Major Works of Hobbes

(1) Leviathan (1651)

- His most famous work.
- Explains the theory of social contract.
- Argues for absolute sovereignty.
- Describes the “state of nature” as a condition of war —
“Life is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

(2) De Cive

- Discusses the relationship between citizens and the state.
- Focuses on political obligation.

(3) De Corpore

- Deals with philosophy and science.

(4) De Homine

- Discusses human nature.

3. Importance of Hobbes

- Founder of modern political philosophy.
- Developed the theory of social contract.
- Supported absolute monarchy for maintaining peace.
- Emphasized law and order over liberty.