



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala
University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgou.ac.in

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

SEMESTER I

MA POLITICAL SCIENCE

DISCIPLINARY COURSE

STATE AND POLITICS IN INDIA

M23PS01DC

General Instructions

- Learners are required to submit two assignments, one from each set, with each assignment carrying 15 marks.
- The descriptive assignment requires the learners to comprehensively explain the theories or concepts supported by relevant facts and examples. In contrast, the analytical assignment demands critical evaluation based on well-supported arguments, leading to informed conclusions.

Assignment Format

- The assignment should contain a title page, introduction, content (explaining theories or concepts for the descriptive set or analysing the theories and concepts for the analytical set), conclusion and bibliography.
- The assignment must be handwritten.

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

Set I- Descriptive

Descriptive Questions:

1. Explain the transition of India from a colonial state to a modern independent state. How did the events during this period lead to the formation of the Constituent Assembly?
2. Explain the composition and functioning of the Indian Parliament. How does it reflect the principles of representation and accountability in Indian democracy?
3. Define secularism in the context of the Indian Constitution. How has the debate over secularism shaped India's political landscape?
4. Discuss the transition from the Planning Commission to NITI Aayog. What were the main objectives of this change in India's economic planning framework?
5. Describe the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution. How do these provisions reflect India's foundational values?

Set -2 Analytical

1. Analyse the impact of colonial rule on the formation of India's modern political institutions. How did colonial experiences influence the design of the Indian Constitution?
2. Critically assess the debates surrounding secularism in the Constituent Assembly. How did these debates shape the secular character of the Indian state?
3. Evaluate the role of the Governor in the context of Centre-State relations. In what ways has the Governor's position been a source of political tension?
4. Compare the significance of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles in upholding the constitutional vision of India. How do these reflect the core values of justice, equality, and liberty?
5. Assess the impact of the shift from the Planning Commission to NITI Aayog on India's policy-making and governance. Has this transition been successful in achieving its goals?



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala

University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgou.ac.in

CONTINUOUS INTERNAL EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

MA POLITICAL SCIENCE

DISCIPLINARY COURSE

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

M23PS02DC

SEMESTER I

General Instructions

- Learners are required to submit two assignments, one from each set, with each assignment carrying 15 marks.
- The descriptive assignment requires the learners to comprehensively explain the theories or concepts supported by relevant facts and examples. In contrast, the analytical assignment demands critical evaluation based on well-supported arguments, leading to informed conclusions.

Assignment Format

- The assignment should contain a title page, introduction, content (explaining theories or concepts for the descriptive set or analysing the theories and concepts for the analytical set), conclusion and bibliography.
- The assignment must be handwritten.
- *Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.*

SET-1- Descriptive

1. How would you define political theory, and what are its key components. Explain the importance of studying political theory in contemporary society?
2. Compare and contrast Isaiah Berlin's concepts of negative and positive liberty. How do these ideas contribute to our understanding of freedom in political thought?
3. Explain John Rawls's theory of "justice as fairness." How does this approach aim to create a just society?
4. Discuss Thomas Pogge's idea of global justice. How does this concept extend traditional notions of justice beyond national boundaries?
5. Compare the communitarian concepts of justice proposed by Michael Walzer and Michael Sandel with Rawls's theory. What are the key differences in their approaches?

SET-2- Analytical

1. Analyse Mahatma Gandhi's concept of Swaraj as a form of freedom. How does this perspective differ from Western notions of liberty?
2. Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of direct participatory democracy, liberal representative democracy, and cosmopolitan democracy as presented in Block IV. How do these models differ in their approach to democratic governance?
3. How do the various concepts of freedom, justice, and democracy presented in the syllabus interact with and inform each other? Are there inherent contradictions or synergies between them?
4. How do communitarian concepts of justice challenge the liberal individualist approach? Are they more or less effective in addressing social inequalities?
5. In what ways does the debate on the decline or resurgence of political theory reflect broader trends in academic and public understanding of politics?



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala

University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgu.ac.in

CONTINUOUS INTERNAL EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

MA POLITICAL SCIENCE

DISCIPLINE CORE COURSE

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

M23PS03DC

SEMESTER I

General Instructions

- Learners are required to submit two assignments, one from each set, with each assignment carrying 15 marks.
- The descriptive assignment requires the learners to comprehensively explain the theories or concepts supported by relevant facts and examples. In contrast, the analytical assignment demands critical evaluation based on well-supported arguments, leading to informed conclusions.

Assignment Format

- The assignment should contain a title page, introduction, content (explaining theories or concepts for the descriptive set or analysing the theories and concepts for the analytical set), conclusion and bibliography.
- The assignment must be handwritten.

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 - Descriptive

1. How has the scope and significance of Public Administration evolved from its origins to its current understanding in modern governance?
2. What were the major challenges faced by Public Administration during the 'Era of Challenges' (1938-1947), and how did they shape the field's identity crisis from 1948 to 1970?
3. In what ways has the relationship between Public Administration and other social sciences, such as Sociology and Political Science, influenced interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Public Administration?
4. How has the implementation of ICT transformed internal administration, planning, and decision-making processes within the context of modern governance?
5. What are the key benefits and challenges of e-governance initiatives like AKSHAYA in Kerala, and how have they contributed to local governance and citizen-centric service delivery?

SET 2 - Analytical

1. How do the principles of administration established between 1927-1937 compare with the practices of New Public Management (1990-2008) in terms of efficiency and accountability in public service delivery?
2. How does the role of Public Administration differ in the context of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation (LPG) compared to its traditional role before these economic reforms?
3. In what ways do the Public Choice and Rational Choice approaches to Public Administration provide different perspectives on decision-making within public institutions?
4. How does the transition from the 'Crisis of Identity' period (1948-1970) to the era of Public Management (1971-1990) reflect changing priorities in public administration?
5. How do the concepts of State vs. Market in the context of entrepreneurial government compare with traditional public administration approaches in balancing public and private interests?



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala

University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgou.ac.in

CONTINUOUS INTERNAL EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

MA Political Science

Discipline Core

ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

M23PS04DC

SEMESTER I

General Instructions

- Learners are required to submit two assignments, one from each set, with each assignment carrying 15 marks.
- The descriptive assignment requires the learners to comprehensively explain the theories or concepts supported by relevant facts and examples. In contrast, the analytical assignment demands critical evaluation based on well-supported arguments, leading to informed conclusions.

Assignment Format

- The assignment should contain a title page, introduction, content (explaining theories or concepts for the descriptive set or analysing the theories and concepts for the analytical set), conclusion and bibliography.
- The assignment must be handwritten.

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

Set 1- Descriptive

1. Describe Socrates's method of inquiry (the Socratic Method). How did it contribute to the development of political thought in ancient Greece?
2. Explain Aristotle's concept of citizenship. How does it form the basis for his views on democracy and oligarchy?
3. Discuss the key political ideas presented by Manu in 'Manusmriti'. What was his vision of the social and political order?
4. Outline the contributions of St. Augustine to Christian political philosophy. How does his work contrast with pre-Christian political thinkers?
5. Analyze Abul Fazal's theory of kingship as presented in the 'Ain-i-Akbari'. How did it reflect Mughal governance practices?

Set-2- Analytical

1. Critically assess the political implications of Plato's theory of the philosopher-king. How realistic or idealistic is this concept in the context of governance?
2. Evaluate the practical application of Kautilya's Arthashastra in the context of ancient Indian political practices. To what extent do his ideas still resonate in modern statecraft?
3. Compare the ethical perspectives on governance between Machiavelli and Aristotle. How do they differ in their approach to leadership and morality in politics?
4. Examine the influence of Buddhist political thought on the governance of early Indian empires. How did concepts like non-violence and ethical leadership affect political strategies?
5. Analyse the concept of divine authority in medieval political thought through the works of Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine. How did their ideas shape the relationship between the church and the state?



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala

University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgou.ac.in

CONTINUOUS INTERNAL EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

MA POLITICAL SCIENCE

Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course- DisciplineSpecific AC (DS)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

M23PS01AC

SEMESTER I

General Instructions

- Learners are required to submit two assignments, one from each set, with each assignment carrying 15 marks.
- The descriptive assignment requires the learners to comprehensively explain the theories or concepts supported by relevant facts and examples. In contrast, the analytical assignment demands critical evaluation based on well-supported arguments, leading to informed conclusions.

Assignment Format

- The assignment should contain a title page, introduction, content (explaining theories or concepts for the descriptive set or analysing the theories and concepts for the analytical set), conclusion and bibliography.
- The assignment must be handwritten.

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 - Descriptive

1. Explain the concept of sustainable development, including its scope and significance in contemporary society. Discuss why it is relevant for addressing current global challenges.
2. Describe the major components of sustainable development. How do these components work together to promote comprehensive development?
3. Discuss the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their importance. How are these goals essential for achieving balanced and inclusive growth globally?
4. Compare different approaches to sustainable development, such as ecological, social, and economic perspectives. Explain how an integrated approach to these can enhance sustainability.
5. Define and explore the interrelationship among development, sustainability, and climate change. Why is it necessary to consider all three in policy-making?

SET 2 - Analytical

1. Evaluate the scope and impact of international conventions on sustainable development, such as the Paris Agreement. How have these conventions shaped national policies on climate change and sustainability?
2. Analyze the relationship between development and climate change. What are the key challenges in balancing developmental needs with environmental sustainability?
3. How does the concept of "Global Commons" relate to climate change? Discuss why managing global commons is essential for addressing transboundary environmental issues.
4. Examine the role of developing nations in sustainable development. What are the unique challenges they face, and how can international cooperation support their sustainable growth?
5. Compare the sustainable development approaches of different countries. How do variations in economic, social, and environmental policies impact overall sustainability?