

**NEW SYLLABUS UNDER THE NEW CURRICULUM w.e.f. July 2014**  
**(Proposed changes considered and finalized by the Board of Studies)**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOURS**

**SEMESTER ONE**

**Paper I Political Theory: Traditional and Modern**

**Module I**

1. Nature and scope of Political Science; distinction between politics and government, political philosophy and Political Science.
2. Normative approach to the study of politics.
3. Theories of state: Contract, Idealist, Fascist.
4. Select key concepts of politics: power, sovereignty, liberty, equality.

**Module II**

5. Behaviouralism and Empirical political theory: Systems Analysis, Structural Functionalism, Communication Theory.
6. Post-Behaviouralism.
7. Democratic theory: Contributions of Robert Dahl and C B Macpherson.
8. Concept of Justice: John Rawls and Amartya Sen.

**Paper II India: Constitution and Government**

**Module I**

1. Background to the Constitution: The Constitution and its Preamble.
2. Fundamental Rights and Duties; Directive Principles of State Policy.
3. Nature of Federalism and Union-State relations.
4. Amendment procedure.

**Module II**

5. Union executive: President---election, position; Prime Minister and Council of Ministers---appointment, functions, position and relationship.
6. Union legislature: Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha---composition, functions and relationship; law-making, Speaker, Privileges, Committee system.
7. Composition of Government in the states: Governor, Chief Minister and Council of Ministers---position and functions.
8. Structure of the Judiciary: Supreme Court---composition, functions and jurisdictions; judicial activism in India.
9. Emergency provisions of the Constitution.

**SEMESTER TWO**

**Paper III Marxist Political Theory**

**Module I**

1. Basic principles of Dialectical and Historical Materialism.
2. Theory of class and class struggle.
3. Marxist theory of state.
4. Marxist concepts of Freedom and Democracy.

## **Module II**

5. Marxian theory of revolution: contributions of Lenin and Mao.
6. Marxian theory of the party: contributions of Lenin and Rosa Luxemburg.
7. Gramsci's concept of hegemony.

## **Paper IV Indian Politics: Institutions and Processes**

### **Module I**

1. Electoral system; composition, functions and role of the Election Commission; politics of defections and electoral reforms.
2. Party system---features and trends; regionalisation of the party system; coalition politics in India.
3. National political parties in India: ideology, programme and electoral performance; state parties in India with special reference to West Bengal.
4. Select pressure groups in India---business groups and trade unions.

### **Module II**

5. Identity politics in India: a) religion, b) language, c) caste, d) tribe.
6. New Social Movements: a) environmental movements, b) women's movements, c) human rights movements.

## **SEMESTER THREE**

## **Paper V Comparative Politics: Theories and Concepts**

### **Module I**

1. Comparative Politics: Development, scope and purpose; distinction with Comparative Government.
2. Methods of comparison.
3. Approaches to the study of Comparative Politics: Institutionalism, Systems Analysis, Structural Functionalism, Development, Neo-institutionalism.

### **Module II**

4. Types of political systems: Liberal and Socialist---basic features; role of conventions, rule of law.
5. Parliamentary and Presidential systems: comparative study of British and American practices.
6. Instruments of direct democracy: referendum, initiative, recall.
7. Rights of citizens (the UK, the USA); rights and duties of citizens (the PRC).

## **Paper VI International Relations: Theories and Issues**

### **Module I**

1. International Relations as an academic discipline---development, nature, scope.
2. Representative theories in International Relations: Realism, Pluralism, World Systems and Dependency theory.
3. Select key concepts: Balance of power, Collective security, National Interest, International system.

### **Module II**

4. From Cold War to Post Cold War; bipolarity, unipolarity and changes in great power system.
5. Globalisation and its impact on international relations; role of non-state actors.

6. Select issues in contemporary international relations: terrorism, ethnicity.

## **SEMESTER FOUR**

### **Paper VII Comparative Politics: Structure and Process**

#### **Module I**

1. Executive: the UK, the USA, the PRC, France.
2. Legislature: the UK, the USA, the PRC.
3. Relationship between the executive and the legislature in the UK, the USA, the PRC.
4. Judiciary: the UK, the USA, the PRC.

#### **Module II**

5. Unitary and Federal systems: cases of federalism---the USA and Russia.
6. Political parties: features and role of party systems in the UK, the USA, the PRC.
7. Interest groups: Roles and performance in the UK and the USA.

### **Paper VIII International Relations: Foreign Policy and International Organisations**

#### **Module I**

1. Foreign policy: concept and techniques---diplomacy, war. Role of media in foreign policy.
2. Indian foreign policy: ideological foundation, evolution, geo-strategic context.
3. India's bilateral relations with the USA, Pakistan, and the PRC.
4. Foreign policies of the USA and the PRC: ideological foundations and geo-strategic contexts.

#### **Module II**

5. United Nations: purposes and principles. Organs with special reference to the General Assembly, Security Council, Secretariat.
6. Changing role of the United Nations; prospects for reform.
7. Role of regional organisations: ASEAN, SAARC, EU.

### **Paper IX Political Sociology: Key Concepts**

#### **Module I**

1. Emergence of Political Sociology---from Sociology of Politics to Political Sociology.
2. Power, authority, legitimacy.
3. State and civil society.
4. Political elites: Michels, Mosca, Pareto.

#### **Module II**

5. Political culture and socialisation.
6. Political communication: concept and structures---new developments.
7. Political participation: concept and types; determinants of electoral behaviour.
8. Groups in politics: political parties and pressure groups.

### **Paper X Research Methodology**

#### **Module I**

1. Fundamental issues in Research Methodology: concepts, variables, propositions and hypothesis; hypothesis construction and verification; measurement---scales: nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio.

2. Research design: definition, purpose of research, units of analysis---ecological fallacy and fallacy of reductionism, factors affecting research design.
3. Sampling---definition, probability and non-probability sampling.
4. Statistical method: definition of statistical analysis; types of statistics--- descriptive and inferential; measures of central tendencies; measures of dispersion; graphic representation of data (bar graph, histogram, pie chart, ogives).
5. Sources and techniques of data collection---quantitative and qualitative data.

#### **Module II**

6. Survey method---definition, general components, types, validity and reliability.
7. Participatory Field research---definition, design, validity and reliability.
8. Case study method.
9. Content analysis.
10. Aggregate Data Analysis.
11. Experimental Research Designs.
12. Focus Group Studies.

### **SEMESTER FIVE**

#### **Paper XI Key Issues in Political Sociology**

##### **Module I**

1. Social stratification: class, caste, ethnicity.
2. Gender and politics: basic issues.
3. Religion and politics: views of Durkheim, Weber, Marx.

##### **Module II**

4. Nationalism and state formation in the Third World and West Europe.
5. Political Development.
6. Military and politics.
7. Information Society: its nature and impact.

#### **Paper XII Western Political Thought: Ancient and Medieval**

##### **Module I**

1. Greek political thought: main features.
2. Plato's views on Justice and Communism.
3. Aristotle's views on the state, and education.
4. Roman political thought: theories of law and citizenship.

##### **Module II**

5. Medieval thought in Europe: main features with special reference to the views of St Augustine, Marsilius of Padua.
6. St Aquinas, the Conciliar theory.
7. Jean Bodin and his concept of sovereignty.
8. Political thought in the age of Reformation.

#### **Paper XIII Indian Political Thought**

##### **Module I**

1. Ancient Indian Political Thought: an overview of Hindu and Buddhist traditions.
2. Kautilya: Saptanga theory, Dandaniti, diplomacy.
3. Manusmriti and Mahabharata: contribution to ethics of kingship.

4. Medieval political thought: politics and religion in the theory of Islamic kingship; duties and responsibilities of Muslim rulers.

#### **Module II**

5. Rammohun Roy: beginning of modern political thought.

6. Bankim and Vivekananda: views on nationalism.

7. Gokhale and Tilak: Liberal and Extremist traditions.

8. Tagore: ideas on nationalism and internationalism.

### **Paper XIV Emerging Issues in Political Science**

#### **Module I**

1. Communitarianism, Multiculturalism, Feminism

2. 'People power' and politics.

3. Migration; diaspora.

#### **Module II**

4. The idea of governance: distinction between 'government' and 'governance'.

5. Key concepts: transparency; accountability; responsiveness; efficiency and effectiveness; equity; access.

6. Governance, Development and Democracy: linkages.

7. Global governance; Local governance; Global-local interface.

### **SEMESTER SIX**

### **Paper XV Modern Western Political Thought**

#### **Module I**

1. Machiavelli and scientific politics.

2. Hobbes: views on materialist politics and his theory of political obligation.

3. Locke: views on liberty, property, consent.

4. Rousseau: concept of General Will.

#### **Module II**

5. Hegel: civil society and state.

6. Bentham: views on utilitarianism; J S Mill: views on liberty and representative government.

7. Utopian and Scientific Socialism---basic principles.

8. Anarchism: an outline.

### **Paper XVI Indian Political Ideas and Movement**

#### **Module I**

1. Colonial rule and modernization: Syed Ahmed Khan.

2. Swaraj, Satyagraha and Trusteeship: Gandhi.

3. State and socialism: Nehru, Narendra Dev, Subhas Bose.

4. Idea of social justice: Ambedkar.

#### **Module II**

5. The INC: its emergence and evolution; Moderate and Extremist phases.

6. Partition of Bengal and the Swadeshi movement.

7. Khilafat and the Non-Cooperation movement; Civil Disobedience movement.

8. Working class and peasant movements: an outline.

9. Roots of communal politics: Savarkar and Hindu nationalism; Jinnah and two-nation theory.
10. Quit India movement; INA; Naval uprising; Partition.

## **Paper XVII Public Administration**

### **Module I**

1. Emergence of Public Administration as a discipline. Nature and scope.
2. Key concepts: Organisation; Hierarchy; Unity of Command; Span of Control; Authority and Responsibility; Centralisation and Decentralisation; Delegation; Line and Staff.
3. Major approaches: New Public Administration; Comparative Public Administration; Development Administration; New Public Management.
4. Bureaucracy: Marxian and Weberian perspectives. Post-Weberian developments: an overview.
5. Public policy formulation and implementation: strategies and relevance.

### **Module II**

6. Organisation of the Union Government: Secretariat administration; PMO; Cabinet Secretariat.
7. Organisation of the State Government: Chief Secretary and State Secretary.
8. Major institutions: Planning Commission; Comptroller and Auditor General; Public Accounts Committee.
9. Administrative Accountability and Transparency: The idea of Lokpal; Lokayukta; Right to Information.
10. Administration and politics at the local level. Local Government in India: Urban and rural organs. Overview of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments.

## **Paper XVIII Dissertation**

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