

ASSIGNMENTS-2026

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

Faculty of Social Sciences

M.A. Political Science - First Year

Semester-I

Course-10401 : WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Assignment-I

[Max. Marks : 15

[Min. Marks : 06

Answer **All** the following questions in about **30 lines**.

Each question carries **05** marks.

Marks : $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. Discuss Plato's theory of Justice.

Refer to Q. 2, Study Material, Page I/9

2. Explain Aristotle's justification of slavery.

Aristotle is one of the greatest thinkers the world has ever seen. He had great admiration for the city - state. He thought far ahead of his times. But it is surprising that he defended the most indefensible practice slavery.

While explaining the origin of state, he expressed his views on the institution of slavery. State is a collection of families, he said. Slave, according to him, was an element of the household. He was an article of property and an instrument of action. "They understand reason but possess no reason". He is "a domestic animal, a mere cattle" said Aristotle. Property is a necessity for the growth and development of family. It is in two forms - animate and inanimate. Chairs, benches, cots etc., form the inanimate property while, slaves constitute animate property. What compass is to the navigator slave is to a family. He was intended to provide more leisure and more services to his master. As good music could not be produced without a good orchestra, so also good life was not possible without slaves. Thus the institution of slavery was a necessity for the very existence of institution of family. By nature slave was not his own man. He was "a domestic animal, a mere chattel, a bit of animate property, an instrument of action". He was useful for action than for production. He was a total dependent.

Causes :

He supported the institution as property from many points of view. They are as follows :

1. Natural Institution : Slavery was a natural and a necessary institution. By nature men were unequal. Some were freemen while others were slaves. "From the hour of their birth some are marked out for subjection, others for rule". The former stood for mental strength. They were masters. The latter stood for physical strength. They were slaves. Both were necessary for the success of family system. So slavery was a natural and a necessary institution.



2. Rule of Nature : Aristotle said that the nature itself is governed by the rule of subordination. Soul rules the body and the mind rules the appetite. Slaves differed from other men as the soul differed from body to body. They had no rational soul. So they should be ruled by a master. Aristotle argued that it was in the interests of slaves themselves that they should obey their master.

3. Beneficial to all : By coming into contact with the virtuous the slave also was benefited. He could learn many things from his master. He could lead a stable life. It was beneficial to the freemen also. They could get lot of leisure and that leisure they could devote for the development of the society. They could spend much time in discussing about the proposed legislation and concentrate all their energies on administration. "*Slavery is natural and beneficial both for the masters and their slaves*" said Aristotle.

4. Necessary for Existence : Slavery in ancient Greece became an integral part of national economy. It is said that of every three Greeks two were slaves. Abolition of slavery would upset the social fabric and destroy the balance of power.

5. Racial Superiority : Greeks honestly believed that they were a superior race. Aristotle argued that Greeks being free people should not be made slaves. He asserted that the defeated soldiers, barbarians and non - Greeks should be employed as slaves.

6. Great opportunity : A slave had an opportunity to serve his master, a fellow - being. To serve a fellow - being was to serve God. The slave in a way was a fortunate man for getting such a great opportunity to serve another person for a life period.

Criticism :

Aristotle is a renowned writer. He had a scientific bent of mind. But it is unfortunate that he had wasted all his energies and gathered all his strength to defend such an inhuman and indefensible organisation. So naturally many writers have criticised him rather harshly in this regard.

- (a) To say that some intellectuals are born to rule and the illiterate are born to follow sounds, illogical and irrational. If that is true in the present day society majority of the people should remain as slaves.
- (b) While defending the institution of slavery, Aristotle talked more like a racist than as a scientist. There is some justification in arguing that prisoners of war should be made slaves but, it is meaningless to assert that Greeks should not be made slaves for the reason that they were free and intelligent people.
- (c) To treat slaves as living instruments is unjust and inhuman. To say that they are ignorant or idiots does not stand to reason. Nobody becomes great by birth. With proper education any individual can develop his faculties. Thus Aristotle has ignored the impact of environment on the individual.
- (d) It is against the modern concepts of democracy, liberty and equality.
- (e) Aristotle's views on slavery, are contradictory and confusing. He calls the slaves living instruments but at the same time he advises the masters to treat them gently. He pleaded for granting legal recognition to them. If such a recognition is granted they become free men. On the other hand, he argues that it is difficult to find out the difference between a natural slave and a free man. On the other side, he concluded that there are physical and mental differences between the two.

Conclusion :

In conclusion we have to note that Aristotle's justification of slavery was half hearted. He advised the masters to treat the slaves as human beings and not as instruments. He said that those masters who illtreat their slaves deserve all penalties. Slaves of good conduct, virtue and intelligence should be granted freedom. He wanted his personal slaves to be set free after his death. All said and done, it is a fact that Aristotle could not think ahead of times in this regard.



3. Examine John Locke's Social Contract Theory.

Refer to Q. 2, Study Material, Page I/32

Assignment-II

[Max. Marks : 15

[Min. Marks : 06

Answer **All** the following questions in about **30 lines**.

Each question carries **05** marks.

Marks : $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. Analyse Marx's theory of Capitalism and Class Struggle.

Refer to Q. 6, Study Material, Page I/56

2. Explain Rawls' theory of Justice as Fairness.

Refer to Q. 1, Study Material, Page I/69

3. Explain Gramsci's concept of Hegemony.

Refer to Q. 1, Study Material, Page I/57

ASSIGNMENTS-2026

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Faculty of Social Sciences

M.A. Political Science - First Year

Semester-I

Course-10402 : INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Assignment-I

[Max. Marks : 15

[Min. Marks : 06

Answer **All** the following questions in about **30 lines**.

Each question carries **05** marks.

Marks : $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. Examine the nature and characteristics of Ancient Indian Political Thought.

Refer to Q. 4, Study Material, Page II/3

2. Explain Kautilya's Saptanga Theory of the State.

Refer to Q. 4, Study Material, Page II/19

3. Evaluate Jyotiba Phule's critique of caste system.

Refer to Q. 1, Study Material, Page II/39

Assignment-II

[Max. Marks : 15

[Min. Marks : 06

Answer **All** the following questions in about **30 lines**.

Each question carries **05** marks.

Marks : $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. Describe Nehru's views on democracy and secularism.

Refer to Q. 5, Study Material, Page II/70

2. Discuss Gandhiji views on Truth and Non-violence.

Refer to Q. 2, Study Material, Page II/68

3. Explain Ambedkar's views on the caste system.

Refer to Q. 2, Study Material, Page II/74

ASSIGNMENTS-2026

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

Faculty of Social Sciences

M.A. Political Science - First Year

Semester-I

Course-10403 : INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Assignment-I

[Max. Marks : 15

[Min. Marks : 06

Answer **All** the following questions in about **30 lines**.

Each question carries **05** marks.

Marks : $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. **Explain the salient features of the Indian political system.**

Refer to Q. 1, Study Material, Page III/7

2. **Evaluate the classification of the Fundamental rights.**

Refer to Q. 4, Study Material, Page III/25

3. **Examine the powers and functions of the President of India.**

Refer to Q. 1, Study Material, Page III/35

Assignment-II

[Max. Marks : 15

[Min. Marks : 06

Answer **All** the following questions in about **30 lines**.

Each question carries **05** marks.

Marks : $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. **Describe the role and functions of the Indian Parliament.**

Refer to Q. 4, Study Material, Page III/43

2. **Examine the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in decentralisation.**

Refer to Q. 4, Study Material, Page III/68

3. **Explain the objectives and structure of NITI Aayog.**

Refer to Q. 5, Study Material, Page III/85

ASSIGNMENTS-2026

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M.A. Political Science - First Year

Semester-I

Course-10404 : CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY

Assignment-I

[Max. Marks : 15

[Min. Marks : 06

Answer **All** the following questions in about **30 lines**.

Each question carries **05** marks.

Marks : $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. **Explain the meaning, nature, and scope of political theory.**

Refer to Q. 1, Study Material, Page IV/5

Refer to Q. 4, Study Material, Page IV/5

2. **Discuss Marx's notion of the dictatorship of the proletariat.**

Refer to Q. 3, Study Material, Page IV/8

3. **Examine the nature and scope of Behavioural theory.**

Refer to Q. 1, Study Material, Page IV/31

Assignment-II

[Max. Marks : 15

[Min. Marks : 06

Answer **All** the following questions in about **30 lines**.

Each question carries **05** marks.

Marks : $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. **Discuss the critical theory proposed by Habermas.**

Refer to Q. 2, Study Material, Page IV/47

2. **Explain C. B. Macpherson's Radical theory of democracy.**

Refer to Q. 2, Study Material, Page IV/53

3. **Describe the nature, scope, and significance of environmentalism.**

Refer to Q. 1, Study Material, Page IV/88