

Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
First Semester 2022-2023
Comprehensive Examination

Course No : GS F211
Course Title : Modern Political Concepts
Nature of Exam : Closed Book
Weightage : 40
Total Marks : 80
Duration : 3 Hours
Date of Exam : 17/12/2022 (FN)

No. of Pages	= 4
No. of Questions	= 19

Note: Please follow the *instructions to candidates* given on the cover page of the answer sheet.

Section – A

- I.** Choose the correct answer. (10×2=20)
- 1.** The view that the state arose not as the creator of law, but the interpreter and enforcer of customs was expressed by:
- a. Machiavelli
 - b. Hobbes
 - c. Locke
 - d. Rousseau
- 2.** The term state in the modern sense was for the first time used by:
- a. Machiavelli
 - b. Hobbes
 - c. Locke
 - d. Rousseau

(P.T.O.)

3. Which theory suggests that nations are primary groups constituted by descent and/or culture, accompanied by the idea that nationalism arises from a prior sense of national identity?
 - a. Ethnic nationalism
 - b. Ethno-symbolism
 - c. Primordialism
 - d. Pragmatism

4. When we say, national identity is a political identity, what do we mean by that?
 - a. National identity is linked to and helps to shape the distribution of power.
 - b. National identity only operates within the state bureaucracy: outside of this bureaucracy, it is nationalism.
 - c. Politicians create national identity to manipulate the masses.
 - d. None of the above.

5. Why has the term 'civil society' stirred suspicion in some Islamic states?
 - a. In those countries the state denies civil rights to its citizens.
 - b. It can be seen as part of a project of 'Westernization'.
 - c. The term is difficult to translate into Arabic
 - d. It failed to recognize that brutal violence is the only way to facilitate change.

6. Civil society can be understood as.....
 - a. the whole population of a state.
 - b. the people within a state who behave in a politically civilized way.
 - c. a social organization made up of retired civil servants.
 - d. a framework within which people who lack political authority conduct their lives.

7. First generation rights are generally?
 - a. Positive rights.
 - b. Negative rights.
 - c. Group rights.
 - d. None of these.

8. The General Will means:
 - a. Will of the majority
 - b. Collection of individual wills

- c. Unanimous will
 - d. Will of the community viewed as a living and rational political organism
9. According to Rousseau, the two instincts, which governed the action of man in the state of nature, were:
- a. Fear and religion
 - b. Self-interest and fear
 - c. Protection of life and liberty
 - d. Self-preservation and sympathy towards others
10. For Rousseau which one of the following is not true?
- a. For man's self-love, which satisfies his real needs, is only too apt to become pride.
 - b. Pride becomes incompatible with sympathy.
 - c. From pride all evil has grown.
 - d. Pride does not corrupt reason.

Section- B

II. Are the following statements true or false? Provide justification for the answer. (5×2=10)

11. Aristotle claims that the virtues are innate.

- a. True.
- b. False.

12. Hobbes defines injustice as, failure to perform one's covenant.

- a. True.
- b. False.

13. Machiavelli insists that the prince should do his utmost to escape hatred.

- a. True.
- b. False.

(P.T.O.)

14. Hobbes' ethical theory is clearly a form of rational egoism.

- a. True.
- b. False.

15. General will be the ultimate voice of authority and liberty.

- a. True.
- b. False.

Section- C

III. Explain the following concepts and critically engage with each of them. (500 words)
(3×10=30)

16. Ethno symbolism

17. Nation

18. Hobbesian liberalism

Section-D

IV. Answer the following question. (1000 words). (1×20=20)

19. Define civil society, trace its evolution, and locate the space of civil society in contemporary India.

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Answer Key

Section – A

I. Choose the correct answer. (10×2=20)

1. C.
2. A.
3. C.
4. A.
5. B.
6. D.
7. B.
8. D.
9. D.
10. D.

Section- B

II. Are the following statements true or false? Provide justification for the answer. (5×2=10)

- 11.** False- Aristotle claims that virtue is attained by man through habit

12. True- According to social contract, the two parties must obey its terms, failing which the state of nature will be re-established that is injustice
13. True- Machiavelli believes that a prince must safeguard his reputation to avoid the hatred of his people. Hatred can remove the Prince from power.
14. True- Hobbes ethical theory believes that man acts only in his self-interest that leads to rational egoism.
15. True- Since general will represents voice of people, it safeguards the liberty and has authority to speak against the government.

Section- C

- III.** Explain the following concepts and critically engage with each of them. (500 words)
(3×10=30)

16. Ethno symbolism

Ethno-symbolism- Anthony Smith- nationalism- importance of myths, symbols, values, and traditions in creating nations- ethnic- ethnicity- ethno symbolism- critical engagement with Smith's idea of nation.

17. Nation

Nation- define nation- from Primordialist to Modern approach of nation- Gellner, Anderson- imagined community- emergence of nation and nation-states based on idea of nationalism in the modern times- current debates on the idea of nation. Post-colonial nation, nationalism and nationality with a discussion on Partha Chatterjee.

18. Hobbesian liberalism

Idea of liberalism in Hobbes- Liberalism and Punishment- Hobbes idea of Justice and Law- social equality – equal justice- Justice and Law in recent times- how punishment is looked in recent times as an act revenge or rehabilitation of the offender

Section-D

IV. Answer the following question. (1000 words). (1×20=20)

19. Define civil society, trace its evolution, and locate the space of civil society in contemporary India.

Civil Society- define- its evolution – include the conceptualization of scholars regarding civil society- Civil society during various phases- post colonial understanding of civil society- explain civil society in contemporary India with examples

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