

# PS-I

QNO2: What is Aristotelian Classification of state?

## Introduction

Aristotle, student of Plato, gave the theory of ideal state. He not only explained the feature of the state but also classified into many types. In his theory, he described the human nature, organic concept, concepts of slavery, distributive justice, theory of education & classification of state. Moreover, His theory somehow based on reality because he learnt ~~many~~ & observed many political system of the state. That's why the Aristotelian classification of state is based on all the constitution & political institution of his time.

## Classification of state

### ① Context:

Aristotle influenced by the scientific methodology of his father because his father was a doctor. Moreover, he also influenced by Plato because he studied twenty years in Plato's academy.

### ② - Human Nature:

Aristotle explained the human nature in his theory. He said that the human being can't live in isolation. They are the part of society. They live together in a society. They dependant on each other.

### ③ - Organic Concept:

Aristotle also described the organic concept. According to Aristotle, there is a connection b/w individual & society. That's why he was trying to create analogy b/w individual & state.

#### ④ - Concept of slavery

According to Aristotle, slavery are of two types. First, slavery by war. Second, <sup>slavery by nature which means</sup> who have less intellect & IQ level but they are physically strong. He also said that there slavery not only benefit for state but also for themselves they worked for their masters & improve their intellect.

#### ⑤ - Distributive Justice:

Aristotle also introduced the term "Distributive Justice". According to Aristotle, the man who contribute in a state, will be given a reward. This is known as distributive justice.

#### ⑥ - Classification of state:

Aristotle explained the classification of state because,

in his time, he learnt a lot of constitutional & political system of state. He described some important classification of a state.

### i) Basic classification:

Aristotle introduced the two method of classification - the quantitative & the qualitative basis. The first one, quantitative basis, based on one, two & few sovereign of power. While, the qualitative basis depend upon the only one sovereignty. It is a pre form of sovereignty.

### ii) State's classification:

Aristotle classified the state into six types: Monarchy, Tyranny, Aristocracy, Oligarchy, Polity & Democracy. Aristotle said the first stage of

classification is Monarchy. In this stage, only one person considered as monarch in a state. He worked for the welfare or interest of people. After some time, Monarchy turns into Tyranny.

In Tyranny, one person ruled but he/she only worked for his/her interest. He/she taken decision for his/her benefit.

As a result, thus caused, Few people revolt from him & Tyranny turns into Aristocracy.

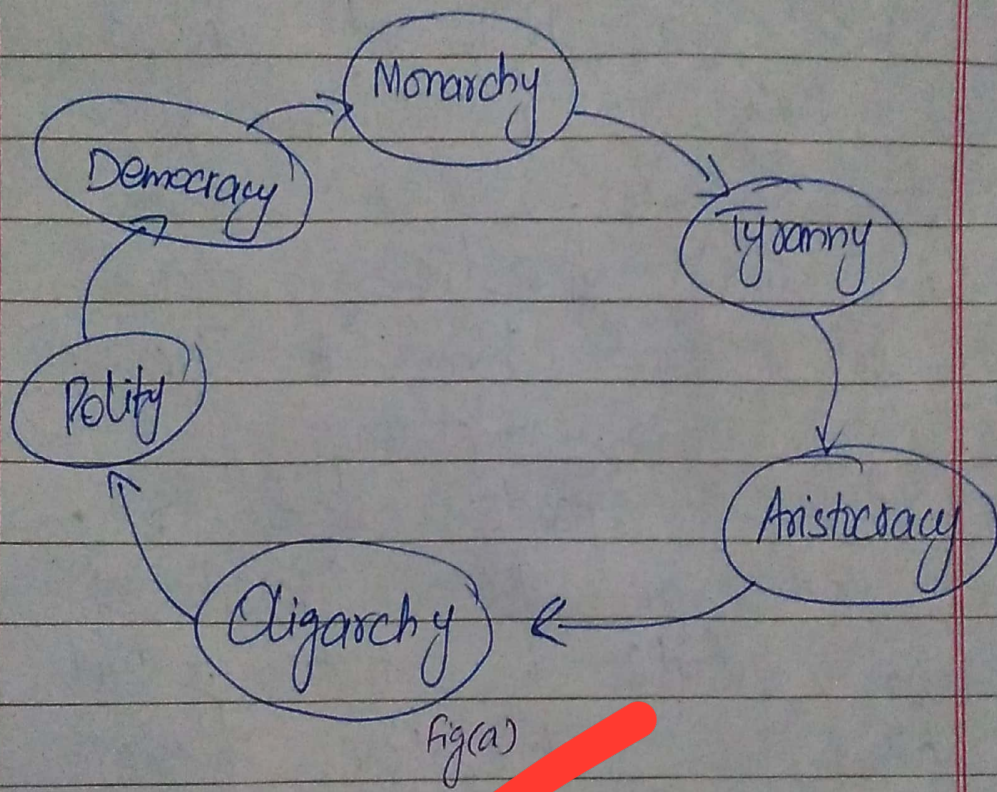
Few people ruled & worked for the interest of the people in Aristocracy. But after a while, these people worked for their interest & this stage is called Oligarchy.

But when people revolt this stage of government. Then, Oligarchy turns into Polity. In this stage, Many people worked for the welfare

of state. This type of government is least desirable but most workable.

But after some time, Polity turns into Democracy.

In which many people ruled & worked for their own interest.



According to Aristotle, when one stage turned into another one & this process happened again & again. Also, the last stage "Democracy" also turned into Monarchy. Then this conversion is called "Revolution"

DATE / / 120

Revolution happen because more of the state is permanent, there is always a probability that one form convert into another one.

Number of ruler	General interest	Selfish interest
One	Monarchy	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many	Polity	Democracy

Fig (b)

Aristotle explained the general & particular causes of the classification of state. This is happened when general interest change into selfish interest. Then <sup>some</sup> people revolt against the government/ ruler of the state. In his time, Monarchy considered a ideal state but it is least practical because there is always a fear

that monarchy turns into  
Tyranny.  
Moreover, As Monarch  
considerd a ideal state, Tyranny  
~~Democracy~~ considered a  
worst form of state.

### Conclusion

In the summation,  
Aristotalian classification of  
state depend upon the  
general & selfish interest  
of people. One form of state  
turns into another as time  
passed. This revolution happened  
again & again until one  
monarch revolt/abolish the  
form of Democracy

---