

Question NO# 02:

Give a critical analysis of Aristotle's classification of government (CSS-2016)

What is Aristotelian classification of states (CSS 2021)

In context

Born-died	384-322 (Stagira Greece)
Era	Ancient Greek Philosophy
Ideology	Empiricism
Main interest	Political virtue
Notable ideas	Representative government, Syllogism, Aristotean Ethics
Influences by	Plato, Socrates, Pericles
Influences on	Ibn-Rushd, St Thomas Aquinas, Scholasticism, Neo-Platonism
Key works	Nicomachean Ethics, Politics, Rhetoric Meta-Physics

Before Aristotle	After Aristotle
431 BCE: Athenian statesman Pericles states that democracy provides equal justice for all.	13th century 380-600 BCE St Thomas Aquinas incorporated Aristotle ideas into christian teachings
380-60 BCE: In the Republic, Plato gives the idea of philosopher king who possess wisdom	11th century: Ibn-Rushd popularized Aristotle in Europe

1 INTRODUCTION

"Man by nature is social Animal"

Aristotle was born in Macedonia. His father was a physician which has huge influenced on his thought. He joined Plato academy at the age of 20. However, He thought different from his teachers. He was realistic

in his ideology and believed in observation and analysis techniques rather than idealistic. This very nature of Aristotle led him to study the various constitutions of small city-states. After completed analysis, he concluded that throughout the world, the constitutions or the classification of states is based on two principles, according to the number of rulers and according to the nature of the rulers. Thus, his classification of states has provided a rational outlook about how states function in a society.

1/1/20

2) ARISTOTLE'S CLASSIFICATION OF STATES

Rule by Number of Persons	Normal state	Perverted state
one	Monarchy	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many	Polity	Democracy

According to the Aristotle, the classification of states is based on two principles: one is on the basis of ruler and other is on the basis of nature or interest of the ruler.

2.1) Monarchy

Monarchy is the form of government in which one man rule the country.

It is government for the people because monarch gives importance to the national interest rather than self-interest.

2.2) Tyranny

Aristotle established that when a government started seeking self-interest it converted into tyranny. It is a form of government in which ruler of the state seek self-interest only and would rule on the basis of fear.

2.3) Aristocracy

Aristocracy is the government by the few people who regard nation's interest first. It is a good form of government

2.4) Oligarchy

When an aristocracy become corrupt and seek to fulfill his personal interest then ~~the~~^{it} go converted into oligarchy. It is the perverted form of government.

2.5) Polity

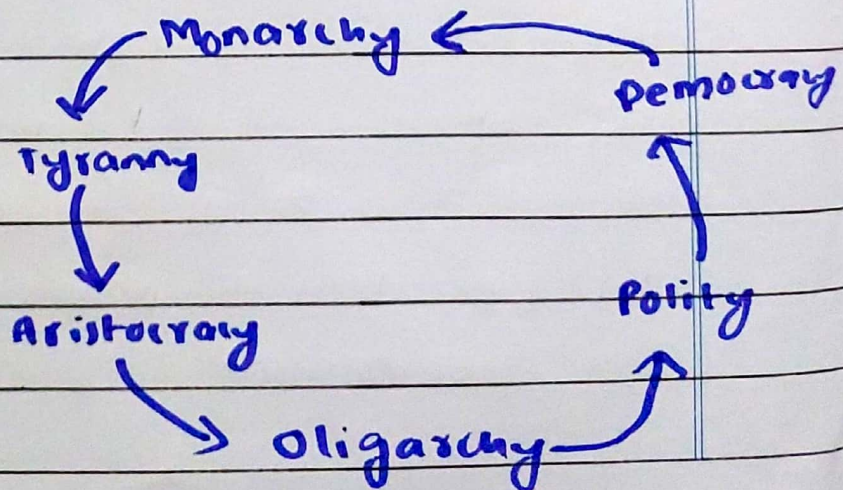
It is a form of government in which many people rule the country.

It is a good of government because it inculcates good governance and interlink their self-interest with the interest of the community..

2.6) Democracy

It is the worst or perverted form of government because in this government rulers become corrupt and prioritize self-interest over national interest.

3) ARISTOTLE'S CYCLE OF POLITICAL CHANGE



CYCLIC POLITICAL CHANGE

Superior person in the society emerged as a king



king began to exploit masses, tyranny established



People didn't tolerate, so long, this type of administration and they gave sovereignty to a few intellectuals, establishing aristocracy



With the lapse of time, aristocracy became corrupt, establishing oligarchy.



When opportunity came, people made a successful revolt against oligarchy, establishing polity



However, with time, polity became perverted establishing democracy.



People rise against democracy



Again, the people elect a warrior statesman as their administrator, thus established monarchy.

1/1/20

4) LEGACY OF ARISTOTLE'S CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT

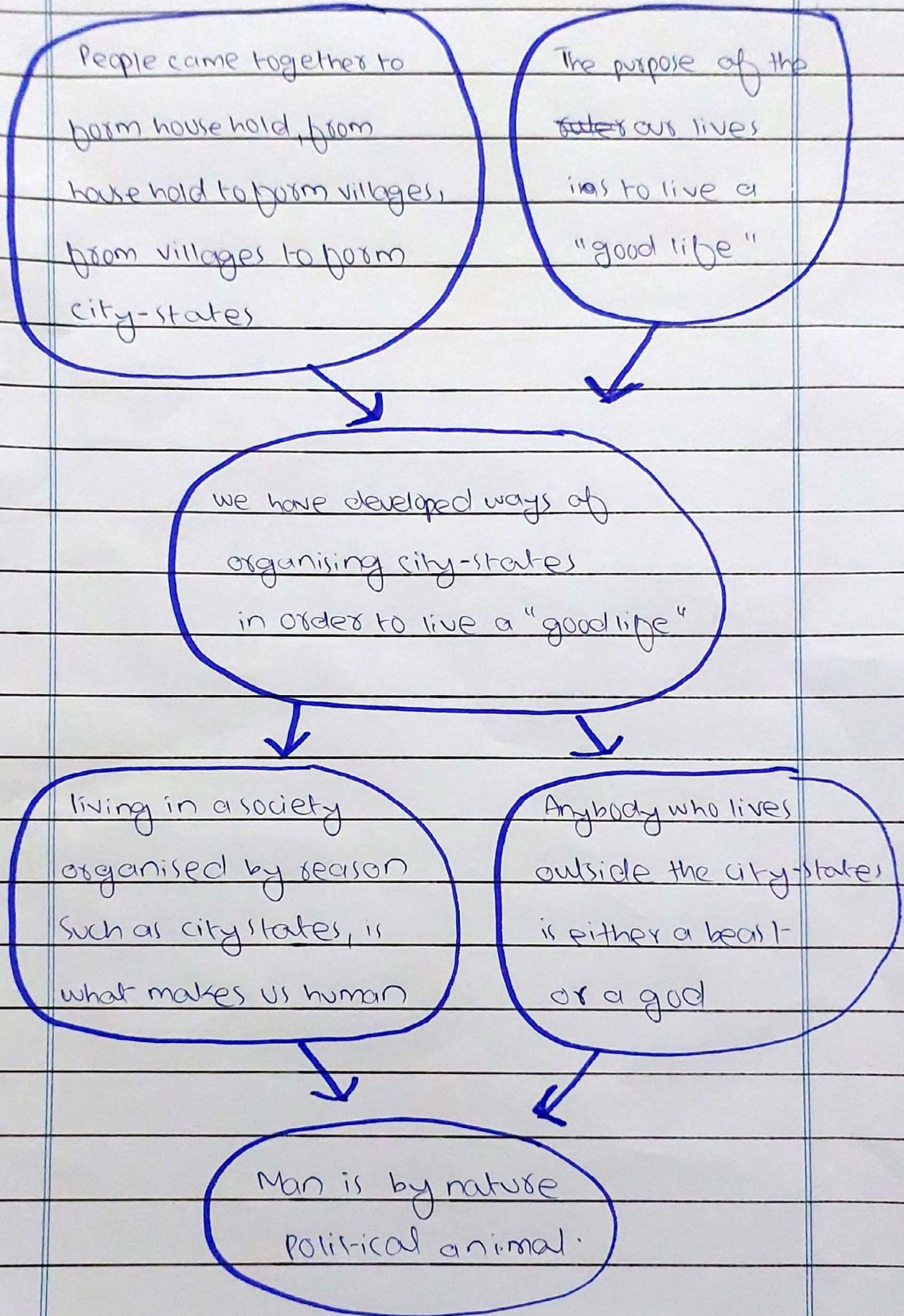
4.1) The history of Greek city states

- ~~etc~~ Aristotle's classification of government is the prominent example of Greek city-states in which political change is determined by the nature of the government.

4.2) Col. Nasser in Egypt

Col. Nasser was the nationalist dictator in Egypt. After his death, the government was taken over by oligarchy. Later on, Egypt established a democracy. So, Aristotelian classification of states manifests political cycle of Egypt.

SUMMARY OF ARISTOTLE'S POLITICAL THOUGHT



5) CRITICISM

5.1) Aristotelian classification of states is unscientific

The major criticism on the Aristotle's classification of state is that it is un-scientific. It is because governments do not follow Aristotelian cycle of political change.

5.2) Aristotelian classification does not distinguish between government and state (Bret and Russell)

Aristotle does not distinguish between the government and state. In contemporary world, state and government are separate entities. Therefore, Bret and Russell called Aristotle classification as a outdated.

5.3) It does not cover all forms of modern states

Aristotelian classification of states do not support all forms of modern states. For instance, nationalist dictatorships had emerged after the world war 2. Similarly, constitutional monarchy in the U.K does not follow Aristotelian classification of government.

6) CONCLUSION

To sum up, Aristotle is referred as father of political science. His work on political governments and their constitutions have provided a legal frame work for the states. Although his theory has some demerits, it cannot be neglected in the modern political thought.