

Time : 56 minutes.

QUESTION No 1:-

Aristotle was a realist not an idealist. Elaborate with reference to his theory of ends and function of the state.

1- INTRODUCTION:-

The student of Plato, Aristotle was a man who believed in realistic theory not an ideal approach. He put forward many theories related to different fields of life. Some theories were precedent of Plato's theories but some theories were contradictory. While put forwarding the classification of state, Plato gave the concept of ideal state but Aristotle gave the concept of real state. The classification of states of Aristotle is known as the theory of ends.

2- Aristotle concept of state:

According

to Aristotle, state has following

characteristics:

- State is present by nature to fulfil the basic needs of a man.
- State is a complex organization.
- State is ~~org~~ associations of associations
- First of all, a man establish a 'family' to fulfil its basic, material and biological needs then he enlarges his circle to 'village' to fulfil his other needs. And finally this village give rise to a 'state'.
- State is prior to individual.
- State is necessary for the survival of life of individual.

3- Aristotle's 'theory of ends' :-

Aristotle's

Theory of ends is also known as classification of state or government. Aristotle, before presenting his own theory of ~~ends~~, studied the constitutions and political systems of almost 158 countries.

So, by getting a vast knowledge, Aristotle put forward his 'classification of state'. According to Aristotle there is no difference in constitution and government.

4- Basis of Classification of States:

Aristotle

divides the different forms of state on the two bases which are quantitative base and qualitative base. In **quantitative** basis, he gives numbers such as one, few or many. And in **qualitative** basis, he tells the **function of state** on the basis of common or self interests.

5- Aristotle's Classification of states.

| | Common interest | Self interest | No. of rulers |
|----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1- | Monarchy | Tyranny | One |
| 2- | Aristocracy | Oligarchy | a few |
| 3- | Polity | Democracy | many |

5.1 Monarchy:

Aristotle says that Monarchy is the best form of government. According to Aristotle, only one benevolent and selfless person ruled the government and perform the tasks for the benefit of community.

5.2 Tyranny:

According to Aristotle, a monarch become tyrant if he works for his own interest rather than the interest of whole community.

5.3 Aristocracy:

Aristocracy is the power of some wealthy men of society who collectively work for the benefit of all.

5.4 Oligarchy:

According to Aristotle when the aristocrats get corrupted or deteriorated from the main purpose then they will give rise to a form of government known as Oligarchy. In Oligarchy, the

Some wealthy persons work only for their own self interest not for the overall community

5.5 Polity:

The form of state that is ruled by the poor people of the society. These poor people by knowing their own circumstance work for the welfare of society.

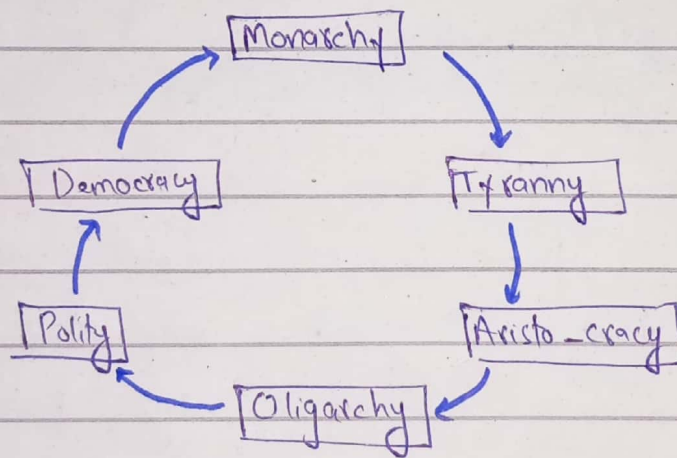
5.6 Democracy:

According to Aristotle, when the poor middle class people get addicted to wealth, they become corrupted and started work for their own class rather than to serve whole of society. This form of government is known as Democracy.

Aristotle gives six different form of governments that rule over the whole community either for the interest of common people or for the interest of their own. Aristotle draw the sketch

of classification of government from the Plato's book 'Statesman'. So, in this regard, Aristotle can also be said as the **Greatest Platonian**. But he make slight difference in definition and basis. Plato's basis of government was law-abiding and lawless while Aristotle's basis of government was common or self interest.

6. Aristotle's Cycle of Government.



According to this cycle, the form of government starting from monarchy and goes on changing with respect to requirement and times and it never stops to rotate.

7- Function of State:

According to Aristotle, the main function of state is the protection and provision of the basic needs of an individual. The state may be work for the benefit of whole community or for the welfare of its own interest based on form of government.

8- Conclusion:

From the above discussion, it is concluded that Aristotle was a realist not an idealist. He believed on the realistic approach, this is the reason that his classification of different forms of government is still valid in the modern day. He gave out many theories regarding to different fields of life such as education, justice, slavery, form of government and many more. In these theories, the realistic approach is reflected which make them enable even in this modern era.