

Q No 1

Give a critical analysis of Aristotle's Classification of government

Introduction:

Aristotle considers the state as the highest kind of community that aims at highest good. Therefore, he classified the state on the basis of the purpose of the and number of ruler. Based on Purpose he further classified state into two categories: pure state and perverted state.

Similarly, based on the number, he classified state into three more categories: Monarchy, aristocracy and polity. He views that these pure form of government which are based on number of ruler replaced by their perverted form of state. This cycle will take place again and again.

Classification of state on the basis of Purpose:

Aristotle classified the state on the basis of purpose into two categories:

- (i) Pure state
- (ii) Perverted state

## Pure state:

The pure state aims the common and collective good; it works for the betterment of the citizen.

Rulers prioritize the well-being of state rather than their vested interest.

## Perverted state:

In this kind of state, the rulers work for their interest, they ignore the welfare of people. They prioritize their vested interest rather than subject.

## Classification based on the numbers of rulers:

Aristotle classified further the state on the basis of number of ruler:

- (i) Monarchy
- (ii) Aristocracy
- (iii) Polity

## Monarchy:

Aristotle says, in a monarchy, a single person rules the state and a ruler.

works for the betterment and welfare of his subject. According to Aristotle, monarchy is the <sup>best</sup> form of government as in monarchy ruler prioritize national interest over self-interest. When<sup>in</sup> monarchy the ruler become selfish and corrupt, it convert itself into tyranny, a perverted form of state.

### Aristocracy:

In this form of state, the state rule by few people. When the ruler work for the masses, the state said to be pure state, when they become selfish and corrupt, the state change itself into its worst form, oligarchy.

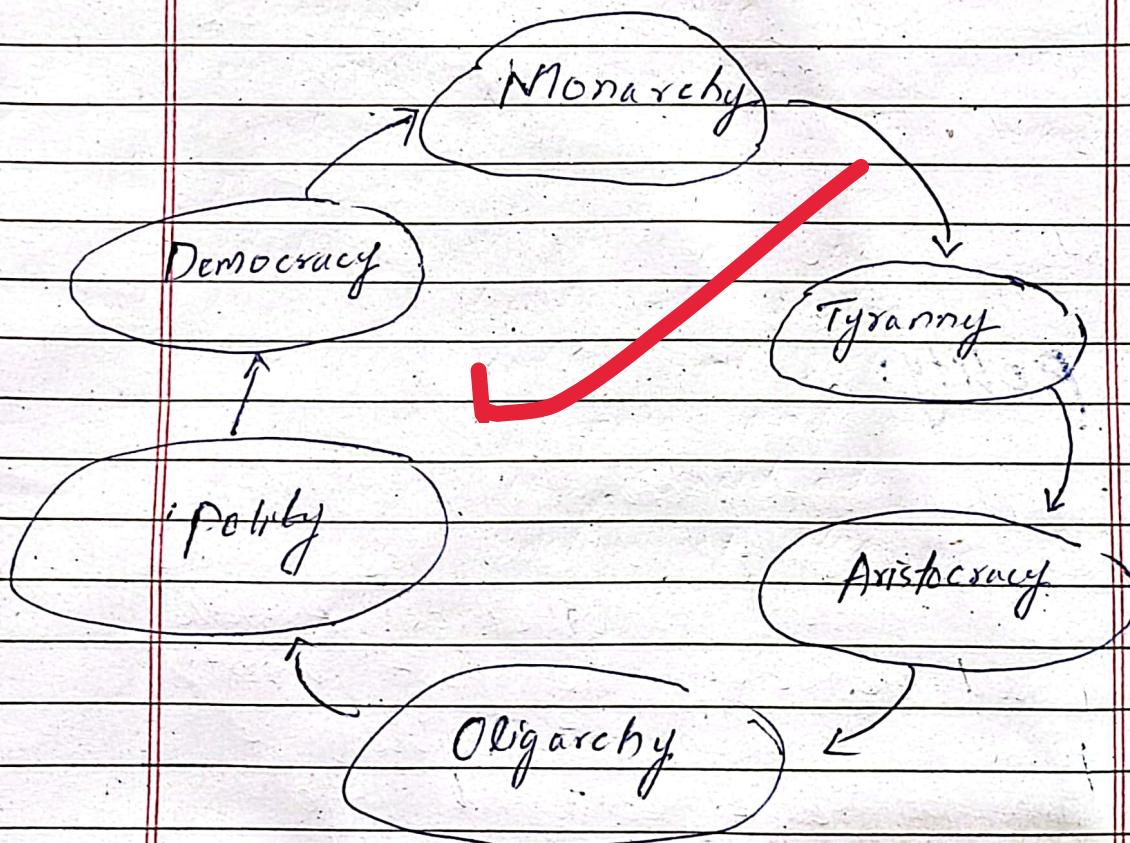
### Polity:

Polity rule by many people. Polity changes into democracy, when ruling class get involved into malpractices. Aristotle placed democracy the most worst form of government. Because, it can be easily converted into tyranny with many heads.

## Aristotle's Classification of State's table

	No of Ruler	Pure state	Perverted state
(i)	One Ruler	Monarchy	Tyranny
(ii)	Few Rulers	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
(iii)	Many Ruler	Polity	Democracy

## Aristotle's cycle of State



According to Aristotle, all the states undergo the cycle of change. A state originates

## Discuss this in more detail

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with the establishment of a monarchy, that is single man's virtuous rule. When monarchy turns into tyranny, it is replaced by an aristocracy. When aristocracy becomes corrupt, it replaces itself into polity, then polity into democracy. This cycle continues all over again.

### Criticism of the Aristotle's Classification of the state:

(i) Democracy is not in its worst forms today:

Democracy is not the worst form of government. There are many democratic countries in the world, they are welfare state. For instance, Finland. This highlights the negation of Aristotle's classification of state.

(ii) Aristotle did not differentiate between constitution and government:

Aristotle's classification of state focus on form of government. Critics argue that the constitution define the form of government. For example, Pakistan has parliamentary form of government, which

runs by Prime Minister. He did not differentiate between form of government and constitution.

(iii) Aristotle did not mention all form of government:

Aristotle did not mention all form of government. For instance, where is dictatorship; it is right now in Myanmar and Cuba.

Conclusion:

Despite so much criticism, one must admit that Aristotle classification of state has an undeniable importance in political system of the state. The classification was based on scientific study but its scope is limited. However, despite all shortcomings, the classification of state on basis of purpose and number of ruler is considered landmark political system of the countries.