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Question # 01:

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

Introduction:

Aristotle stands out as a realist in Greek philosophy because he built his ideas on experience and empirical observation. Unlike Utopian speculations, Aristotle grounded his theory in the natural growth of human associations and practical needs of society. His theory of ends and function of state clearly proves him a realist, making him one of the true founders

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of Political Science.

Theory of Ends

State as
a natural
Institution

The Supreme
end of the
State: A good
Life

Observation
of actual
State

@ State as Natural Institution:

Aristotle declared that the idea of the State is not man-made. This basically came from natural needs of human. Therefore Aristotle said:

"Man by nature is
political animal"

(Aristotle, politics)

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Aristotle emphasised that nature arises from family and communities. This shown realism because it is based on how human beings live in communities

⑥ The Supreme end of the State : The good life :

Aristotle stresses that the highest purpose of the state is not merely survival but a good life based on virtue and happiness. Therefore he said in his book the politics.

"The state comes into existence for the sake of life, but it continues its existence for the sake of good life"

picture of the societies and other matters.

3) Observation of Actual States:

Aristotle studied the constitutions of 158 states to formalize his theories. His analysis based on reality showed realist approach. because he built conclusions from evidences.

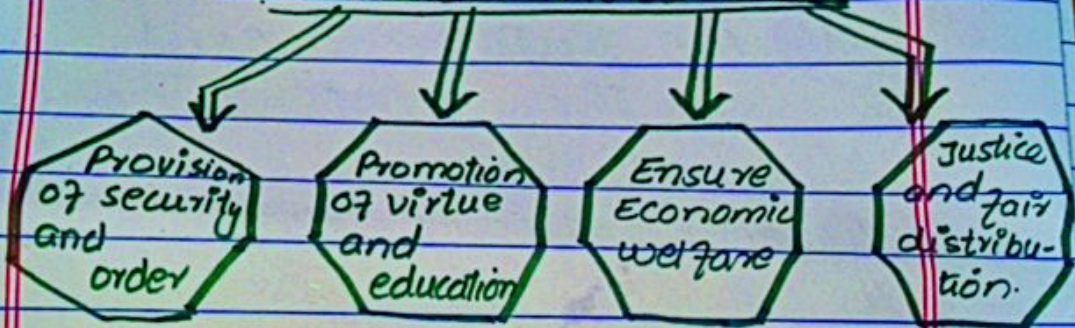
As he appreciated; the sparta's mixed constitution of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy.

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Unlike abstract ideas, this idea is deeply tied with practical ethics and human well being.

Function of the State Practical Realism:



④ Provision of Security And Order:-

Aristotle emphasized that the state must ensure law and order and provide security for the protection of citizens. This is a practical action which not merely reflect ethics but a responsibility of the state.

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⑤ Promotion Of Virtue And Happiness :-

Aristotle main objective was that the state must provide virtue and happiness in form of education and law, shaping citizens for good and happy life. This links politics with ethics but in reality and in functional way, not in Utopian way.

⑥ Ensure Economic welfare :

State must ensure the regularity of property and economic stability. Unlike plato, who was against of keeping private property, Aristotle support it as it motivates one's responsibility.

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(9) Fair Distribution of Justice:

Aristotle urged that every citizen should be treated justly and all should be given with their due right on the basis of merit. Aristotle divided justice in two types.

Justice according to Aristotle

Distributive Justice

- Fair distribution of Honor, wealth and resources according to merit

Corrective Justice

Restoring Justice/ fairness with when injustice occur (e.g. in trade and law)

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Aristotle said :

"Justice consists in treating equals equally and unequal unequally in proportion to their merit.

(Nicomachean book)

(2) Conclusion:

Aristotle was a realist in Greek philosophy because of his concrete observation and experience. His political theory was rooted in natural experiment. His theory of ends and function of the state clearly proves him a realist. When he was giving his theory of function of state, first he studied the constitutions of 158 greek city states, meaning that his theories, experiments