

Thursday

① Mock Exam 4

Date 22.08.2024

Paper-1

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Batch No#: 59

Political Science:

PART - II

SECTION - A

Q No 4: Is the philosophy and functioning of the concept of "Social Contract" by Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, still relevant in modern times? Argue in favor or against -

Introduction:

The concept of social contract, articulated by philosophers Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau has profoundly shaped modern political theory and practice. This philosophical framework addresses the origins of political authority, the nature of governance, the right and obligations of individuals within a society. Despite being conceived in the 17th and 18th centuries, the principal of social contract theory continue to resonate in contemporary discussions about governance, democracy and social justice. This statement argues that the philosophy and functioning of social contract remains relevant in modern times, due to their foundational impact on democratic principles, legal system and ethical consideration in governance.

Arguments in Favour of the Relevance of the Social Contract Theory in Modern Times :

The philosophy and functioning of the social contract, as developed by Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, remain highly relevant in modern times for several reasons.

1. Foundation of Modern Political Philosophy :

Social Contract theory laid the groundwork for contemporary democratic thought and political philosophy. Hobbes' notion of a strong central authority to maintain order - Locke's emphasis on individual rights and limited government, and Rousseau's ideas on popular sovereignty continue to influence political ideologies and constitutional frameworks worldwide.

"In the state of nature, profit is the measure of right" (Leviathan)

2. Principles of Governance:

The Social Contract Theory provides foundational principles that describe the modern democratic governance. Locke's ideas on consent of the governed and the right to revolt against unjust governments are central to democratic theory and practice. Rousseau's concept of the general will and collective sovereignty informs contemporary notions of the participatory democracy and civic engagement.

"Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains" (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

3. Legal and Political Framework:

Modern and legal political systems are built upon the principles of Social Contract Theory. Constitutions and legal systems are often drafted to reflect the need for mutual consent and accountability between the government and governed. For instance, the idea of constitutionalism and the protection of individual rights are rooted in Lockean principles.

"The end of Law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom" (John Locke)
(Second Treatise of Government)

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4. Social Justice and Political Participation:

Rousseau's focus on equality and collective decision-making remains relevant as societies grapple with issues of social justice, representation and political participation. His emphasis on inclusive governance and addressing inequalities is pertinent to contemporary debates on democracy and equality.

The great / general will is always right; but the judgement which guides is not always enlightened." (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

5. Response to Modern Challenges:

The Social Contract theory provides a framework for addressing modern political challenges. For example, issues such as government legitimacy, citizen participation, and balance between state power and individual freedoms can be examined through the lens of Social Contract Theory. It helps in analyzing the legitimacy of state actions and the need for social and political reforms.

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6. Moral and Ethical Dimensions:

The ethical dimensions of Social Contract Theory, such as moral obligations of individuals to each other and to the State, remains pertinent in discussion about civic responsibility, ethical governance and societal norms.

"Locke's 'Second Treatise of Government' was published in 1689, shortly after the Glorious Revolution in England. His ideas were instrumental in shaping modern liberal democracy."

7. Influence on Political Movements:

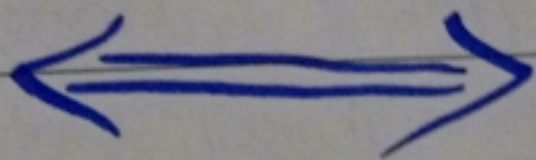
Social Contract Theory has influenced numerous political movements and reforms aimed at improving governance and addressing injustices. Its principles have inspired various human rights movements and efforts to reform political institutions to better reflect the will of the people.

"The Social Contract is an agreement not only to form a body politic but to act in such a way that all members have equal rights and opportunities" (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

Conclusion :

In conclusion, the social contract theories of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau continues to offer valuable insight into governance, legal framework and democratic principles. Their ideas remain relevant as they address fundamental questions about the nature of political authority, the role of the state, and rights and responsibilities of individuals.

The enduring influence of these theories highlights their continued significance in contemporary political discourse and practice.



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Ques: Write short notes on the following.

(a) Class Conflict of the Bourgeoisie and Proletariat :

Class Conflict :

Class conflict refers to the tensions and struggles between different social classes with opposing interests. In Marxist Theory, the primary conflict is between the Bourgeoisie (the class of capitalist) and Proletariat (the working class).

2. Concept of Bourgeoisie :

The Bourgeoisie is the class that owns and control the means of production, such as factories, land and capital. They derive their wealth from the exploitation of labor and control over economic resources. This class is characterized by its economic power and influence over political and social institutions.

"The bourgeoisie is the class that has the means of production and thereby therefore the class that directs economic activity and political power" (Max Weber)

2. Concept of Proletariat:

The Proletariat consists of workers who do not own the means of production and must sell their labor to the Bourgeoisie to survive. Their labor is a source of value, but they receive wages that are less than the value of what they produce, leading to economic inequality and exploitation.

Max's writings, particularly "The Communist Manifesto" (1848) and "Das Kapital" (1867) provide foundational analysis of the Proletariat role in the Capitalist societies and its potential for "revolutionary change" (Karl Marx)

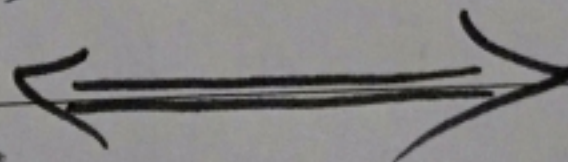
3. Conflict Dynamics between the Bourgeoisie and Proletariat:

Marxist argue that the conflict between these two classes is inherent and inevitable due to opposing interests. The Bourgeoisie seeks to maximize profits, often at expenses of workers, while the Proletariat struggle for better wages, working conditions and fair share of economic output.

4. Historical Impact of Class Conflict between the Bourgeoisie and Proletariat:

The Class Conflict has historically led to significant social and political upheavals such as Industrial Revolution, which saw the rise of labor movements and socialist ideologies advocating for workers rights.

Marx's predictions of a proletarian revolution were based on the idea that systematic inequalities would eventually lead a class struggle of Capitalism culminating in the overthrow



(b) Political Change and Revolution:

Political Change:

Political change means to alterations in the structure, processes or politics/policies of a political system. It can occur through various means including reforms, elections or shifts in political ideologies.

Political change can be gradual, as seen in incremental reforms within democratic systems or abrupt, resulting from crises or leadership transitions.

Revolution:

Revolution is a fundamental concept and often abrupt change in political power or organizational structures, typically involving the overthrow of an existing government or social order.

Revolution can be driven by various factors including economic distress, social inequalities and political oppressions.

"Political Power grows out of a barrel of a gun"
Mao Zedong

Types of Revolution :

i- Political Revolutions :

This political revolution involve the complete overhaul of a political system of government, such as the French Revolution of 1789, which led the rise of republicanism and the end of monarchy.

ii- Social Revolutions :

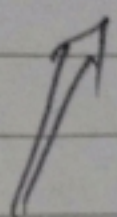
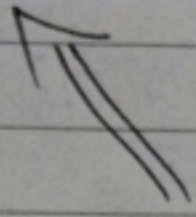
These seek to change social structures and relationships often addressing issues like class inequality and social justice. The Russian Revolution of 1917, aimed to dismantle the aristocratic system and establish a communist state.

iii- Economic Revolutions :

These focus on altering economic system, such as industrial revolution, which transformed economies from agrarian-based to industrial and capitalist.

New forms of Government

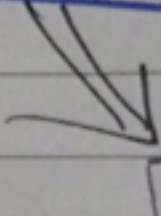
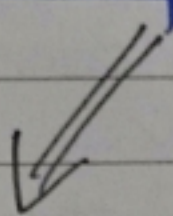
Shifts in Power



Impacts and Consequences of Revolution

Rise of authoritarian Regimes

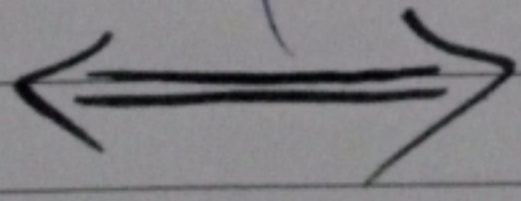
Prolonged Conflict



Historical Examples of Revolution :

The American Revolution (1775-1783) led to the establishment of a democratic republic, while the Iranian Revolution (1979) resulted in the establishment of an Islamic republic under the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Both examples illustrates the profound and diverse outcomes that political change and revolution can produce.



SECTION-B

Q No 6: If Liberty, Freedom and Equality are elusive concepts in modern day parties. Critically elaborate.

Introduction:

Liberty, freedom and equality are foundational concepts in political philosophy and modern democratic societies. Despite their prominence, these ideals often remain elusive in practices. This essay explores critically examines why these concepts can be challenging to fully realize in contemporary politics, focusing on systemic, social and individual factors that contribute to their elusiveness.

1) Elusiveness of Liberty:

Liberty generally refers to the state of being free from oppressive restriction imposed by authority.

It includes both **negative liberty** (free from interference) and **positive liberty** (the ability to act on one's free will).

Challenges Faced by Liberty:

(A) Legal and Practical Liberty:

Legal framework may guarantee liberty (e.g.: freedom of speech and assembly). Practical liberty is often constrained by economic disparities, social discrimination and political repression.

For example, marginalized communities may face systematic barriers that limit their effective exercise of freedoms.

(B) Surveillance and Security:

In modern states, increasing surveillance and security measures can encroach on personal freedoms. The balance between national security and individual liberty is a contentious issue, exemplified by debates over privacy in the digital age.

"Surveillance Capitalism is a new form of power in the 21st Century" (Zuboff)

The Age of Surveillance Capitalism

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2) Eclusiveness of Freedom:

Freedom refers to the ability to act or think without hindrance or restraint. It encompasses the autonomy of individuals and groups to pursue their own paths.

Challenges Faced by Freedom:

i- Economic Inequality:

Freedom can be undermined by economic inequality. Those in power often have less access to resources and opportunities, which limits their freedom to choose and act effectively.

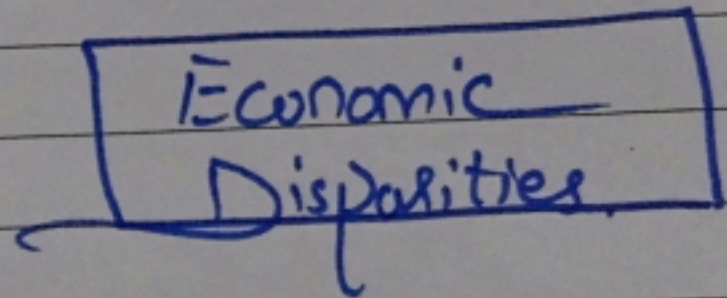
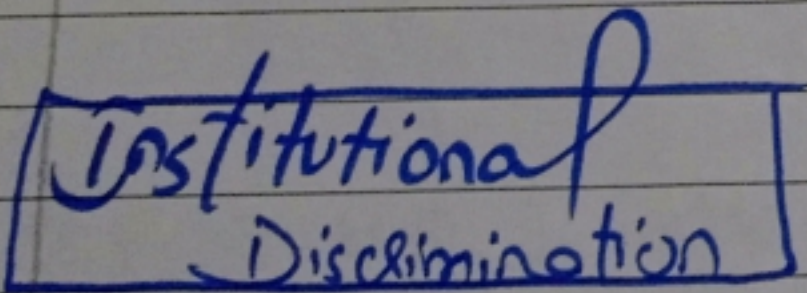
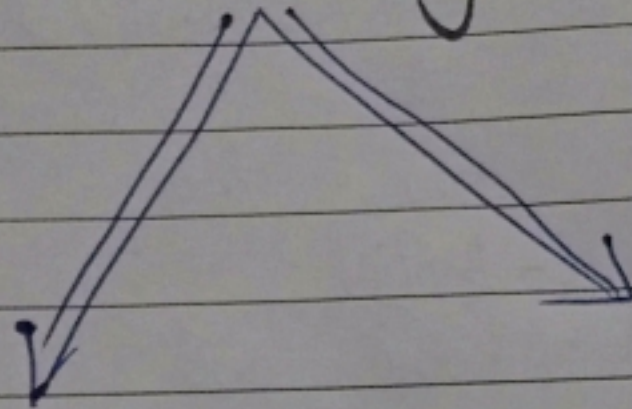
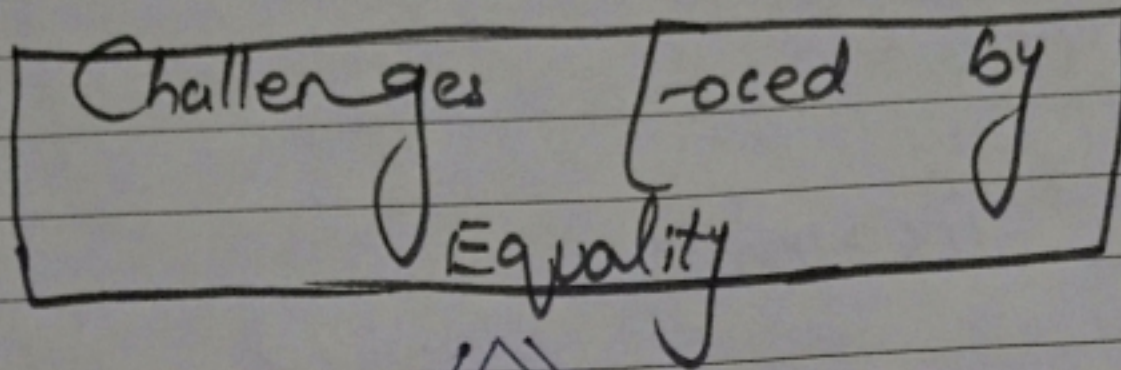
"Injustice anywhere is a threat of justice everywhere" (Martin Luther King)

ii- Social Constraints:

Social norms and discriminations can restrict individual freedoms. For instance, gender, racial and class-based discrimination can prevent certain groups from enjoying the full range of freedoms available to others.

3) Elusiveness of Equality:

Equality implies that all individuals have equal rights and opportunities without discrimination or bias.



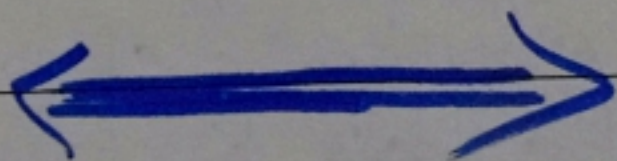
Example of Equality:

The persistence of income inequality and disparities in educational attainment between different socio-economic groups reveal ongoing challenges in achieving true equality.

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Conclusion:

Liberty, freedom and equality are integral parts and to democratic values of human rights but remain elusive in practice due to a range of systemic and societal factors. The gap between theoretical ideals and practical realities describes the need for present efforts to address economic disparities, social discrimination and political repression. By achieving these ideals requires continuous reforms, vigilance and a commitment to ensuring that all individuals can fully exercise their rights and opportunities.



Q No 7: Elucidate the Islamic Concept of State and Ummah... If Muslim Ummah led by OIC can play any role in the development of modern political system? Discuss.

Introduction :

The Islamic Concept of the State and Ummah represents foundational ideas within Islamic political philosophy and governance. The State, in Islamic thought is envisioned as a reflection of divine principles, while the Ummah signifies a collective community bound by faith. This statement describes the concepts and the potential role of the Muslim Ummah, led by the organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in contributing to the development of modern political system.

I. The Islamic Concept of State :

(A) Shariah-Based Governance :

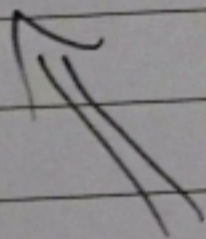
The Islamic State is governed by Shariah (Islamic law) which encompasses both personal and public laws. This system aims to uphold justice, morality and the welfare of the people according to divine guidance.

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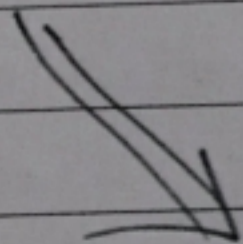
B) Caliphate Model:
 Historically, the concept of Islamic State was realized through the Caliphate system, where the Caliph was considered both a temporal and spiritual leader, ensuring the implementation of Islamic principles in governance.

The first four Caliphs were
 Abu Bakr (632-634 CE), Umar ibn al-Khattab (634-644 CE), Usman ibn Affan (644-656 CE) and Ali ibn Abi Talib (656-661 CE).

Justice and Equity



Features of
Islamic Concept of State



Consultation (Shura)

II. The Islamic Concept of Ummah:

i- Community of Believers:

The Ummah refers to the global community of Muslims united by their faith in Islam. The concept transcends national and ethnic boundaries, fostering a sense of collective identity and responsibility.

"The Believers, in their mutual love, mercy and compassion are like one body, when one part of body suffers, the whole body suffers"

(Prophet Muhammad (PBUH))

ii- Social and Moral Cohesion:

The Ummah is expected to uphold social justice, support one another and work collectively towards the common good. This collective responsibility is grounded in Islamic teachings of charity, solidarity and mutual aid.

Advocacy for Justice

Role of Ummah
in Governance

Promoting Unity

III. Role of The Muslim Ummah and the OIC in Modern Political System:

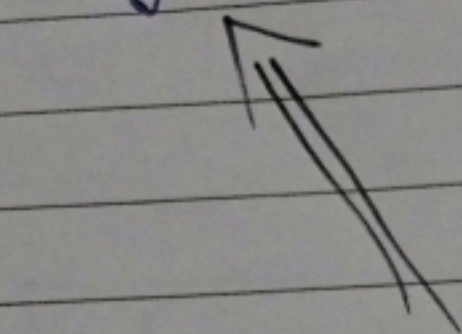
Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC):

The OIC, founded in 1969 aims to promote cooperation among the Muslim majority countries to protect the interest of Muslim worldwide and address political, economic and social problems.

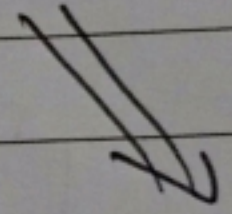
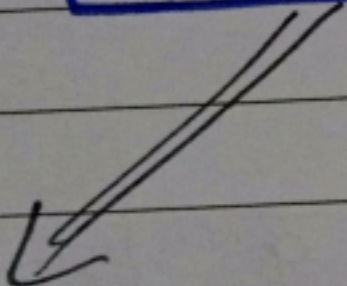
The OIC has played a role in diplomatic efforts, humanitarian aids and development projects across member states.

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Promoting Good Governance



Potential Contributions
of OIC



Resolve Conflict
Resolution

To Promote Economic
Cooperation

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Challenges Faced by OIC:

i- Diverse Political System:

The OIC member States have varied political system and levels of development, which can complicate collective action and implementation of uniform policies.

ii- Global Integration:

Balancing Islamic principles with global norms and standards presents a challenges, particularly in areas such as human rights and democratic governance.

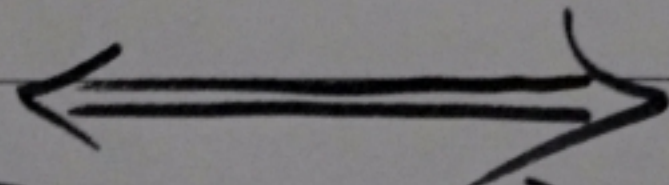
"Freedom House evaluates political rights and civil liberties across the globe.

The 2023 reports indicated that 37% of the world's population lives in 'free' countries, while 27% live in 'partly free'.

Conclusion:

The Islamic concept of State and Ummah provide a framework for governance and communal responsibilities that can be applied to contemporary political systems. The OIC, representing the collective interests of the Muslim Ummah has the potential to influence modern political systems positively by promoting justice, economic cooperation and conflict resolution.

However, the effectiveness of this influence depends on overcoming challenges related to diversity among member states and integrating Islamic principles with global standards. The OIC's role in development and diplomacy continues to be crucial in addressing the needs and aspirations of the Muslim world.



THE END