

Areeha Aiman

Q2: Describe the main similarities and differences in the political ideas of Plato and Aristotle. How they are relevant today?

## Introduction:

Plato is the first political thinker to be known formally in the list of western political thinkers. He belonged to Athens and was a student of Socrates. He later on made his own learning centre and named it "Academy". Whereas Aristotle came after Plato. He formed the idea of state. He said that "fighte are due to the wicked nature of man." Both the philosophers layed down the concepts of state of nature, education and regarding head of states and their appointment. The discourse below will lay bare the similarities and differences in the political ideas of Plato and Aristotle and their relevancy in the present day.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ARISTOTLE AND PLATO

1) State is necessary for man:

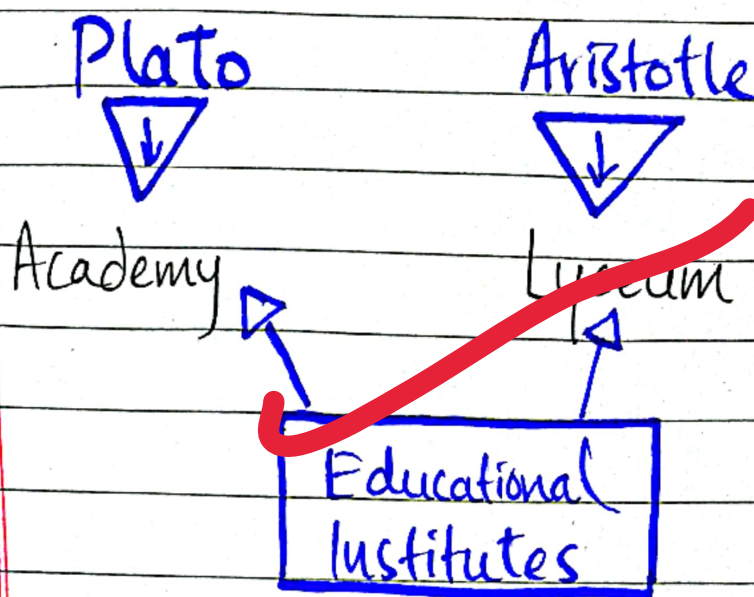
Both philosophers relied on the idea of presence of a state for the survival of its population. Virtue and justice are placed as the ground norm for the running of the state. They also laid down the requirements of the state like the importance of area that is defined, the presence of population, sovereign and the will of the people.

2. Focus on role of Education:

Both political philosophers stressed on the acquiring of education. They formed their own learning institutions. Plato established 'Academy' and Aristotle formed his teaching centre "Lyceum". They were the



cradle of learning for their people.



### 3- Community oriented Approach:

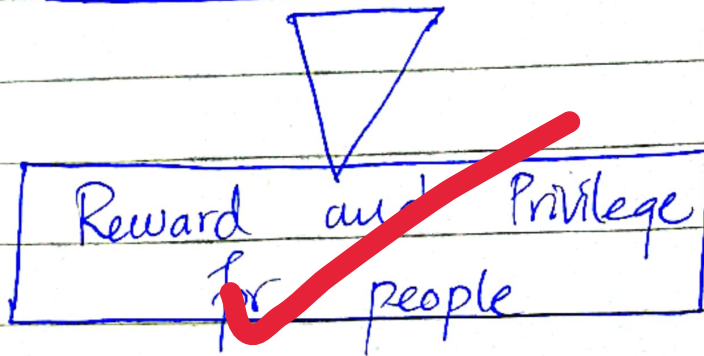
Both emphasized the collective good over individual desires. They argue that state should exist to the highest good of the community. Both rekindled the concept of unity, and collective growth.

### 4- Stress on Justice:

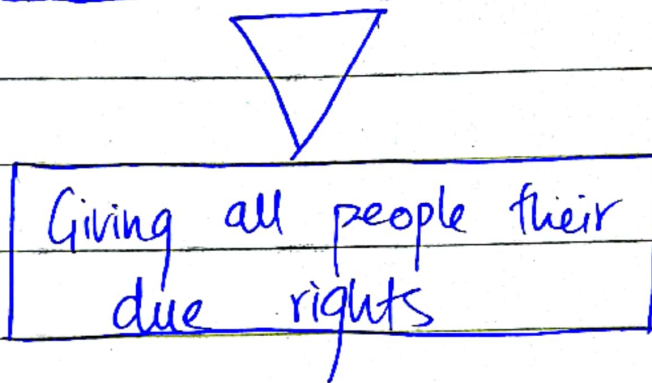
As the old adage says, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Both philosophers emphasized on the importance of

concept of just society.

- Aristotle's Distributive Justice



- Plato's Justice



5- Both were opposed to democracy:  
Both Plato and

Aristotle believe that people should be govern according to the ruling mechanism provided by the intellectuals of the state. The concept of free will was ~~was~~ limited in the philosophies of both philosophers.



# Differences BETWEEN ARISTOTLE AND PLATO

## 1) Realism Versus Idealism:

The concept and theories of Aristotle are based on realism and practicality whereas that of Plato are based on ideal state of nature and is mostly deemed as vision that is rooted in abstract form.

## 2) Achievement of Unity:

Both the philosophers have fissure on the concept of unity. Aristotle demanded broader citizens engagement whereas Plato formed caste or group system that form distinguished class basis.

## 3) Differences between Concept of Justice:

Plato's justice is achieved when each class in a society achieve and perform its designated

role of auxiliaries, producers and rulers. Whereas, Aristotle involves proportionality and treating equals equally emphasizing on distributive and corrective justice.

#### 4) Role of citizens:

Plato advocated for hierarchical society where everyone cannot participate in governance whereas Aristotle advocated for citizen engagement is integral to human flourishing.

#### 5) Nature of Reality:

Plato believed in dual reality of ideal state versus material world. While Aristotle focuses on empirical observation - a

## RELEVANCE Today:

### 1) Mentocracy of Plato:

Plato's class system and merit based appointment and



Selection are the manifestation of bureaucracy.  
 2- Aristotle's reliance of law and citizens engagement:-

Aristotle was a staunch proponent of law over individual rulers. Today, applicability of law and constitutional governance as seen in parliamentary system are the result of Aristotle's theory.

Add more arguments in this part. Also add references in this part

## Conclusion:

In a nutshell, it can be avered that Plato's idealism and Aristotle's pragmatism offer a complementary framework for the governance structure of today's modern world. Plato inspires vision of justice and morality, whereas, Aristotle grounds political theories in human nature.



## Q3: Machiavelli and Present day populism:

### INTRODUCTION:

Niccolo Machiavelli

often hailed as the "father of Modern Political Science" - he developed pragmatic and realist principles of politics that remain relevant across ages. His ideas are articulated in his famous work "The Prince", that is highly applicable for understanding the dynamics of contemporary populism. His structure and construction of Sovereign in his writings delves deeper into the developmental populist nuances in any state, and for any world leaders. Following are the principles of Machiavelli's politics:

Give the main heading first and relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
1- Pragmatism Over Idealism:

He argue that a leader should be more powerful and practical in his outcomes and adhere to strong ideological constraints to maintain will.

Add and highlight references against these arguments

2- Ends Justifies the means:

Leaders must be willing to adopt any means of deception, manipulation and even cruelty, if necessary, to secure his position.

3- Understanding the nature of humans:

He described the people are derived by self-interest and can easily be manipulated through fear, hope and ambition.

4- Power through appearances:

Machiavelli strongly emphasized on the importance of image of a leader though he is something else inside but his leadership image should be strong.

5. Adaptability to circumstances:

According to Machiavelli, the leaders should adapt to



The Changing circumstances and political context

# RELEVANCE IN PRESENT-DAY POPULISM:

1) Charismatic leadership theory:

The image of a leader among the general public speaks volumes about his strength and consolidated power. So modern day populist leaders hold flow.

2- Manipulation of Public Sentiments:

Exploiting the public via shift in economic policies, subsidies, benefits etc are the tricks that usually populist leaders do to hold control.

3- Flexibility and opportunism:

Modern populist leaders exemplify Machiavelli's principles of adaptability altering their stance on policies and align with the sentiments of the public to gain



support and love from public.

#### 4- Using Deception and Fear:

The use of deception and love for maintaining control is a major context of Machiavelli-Populist leaders usually control their people by fearing them through foreign invasions, cultural loss, etc.

#### 5- Undermining Institutions:

Machiavelli's principle of maintaining control over a state and its population at any cost aligns with how populist leaders are often the basic reason behind weakened democratic institutions.

Example: Nogueira's leaders in 20th century.

## Populism in Machiavellian

### Mold: Examples

- 1- Trumpism in USA -
- 2- Bolsonaro in Brazil -

### 3. Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey.

#### Conclusion:

Thus, in a terse manner, it can be alleged that there is no denying the fact that Machiavelli is a whole depiction of populist theories and provide a base for a leadership to own populist tendencies to establish his or her stronghold in any country's government via the ideas given by Niccolò Machiavelli.



# Q7: SOVEREIGNTY AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF STATE:

## INTRODUCTION:-

Sovereignty is the concept of ultimate authority within a state. It is the cornerstone of statehood. The locus standi of sovereignty is the will of the people in the modern day state. This can be brought into practice by the formation of parliament, societal order and thorough governance structure. Below is the discussion of the pros and cons of the sovereignty residing in people, state, parliament and crown.

## ! SOVEREIGNTY RESTS WITH



# PEOPLE:

This is often associated with the principle of "Popular Sovereignty" where the people are the ultimate source of power, as seen in democracies - It holds democratic accountability.

Every government is answerable to people, ensuring decisions and reflect public will.

Add and highlight references against these arguments

## i) Legitimacy:

Governance derives its moral authority from the consent of the governed -

## ii) Rights Protection:

The protection of rights of the people and their freedoms is the core of sovereignty.

## iii) Flexibility and inclusiveness:

Policies that revolves around the general welfare of the people's sentiments and needs are also vital to sovereignty.



## CONS:

### 1- Risk of populism:

Politicians may exploit sentiments of the public for their gains.

### 2- Lack of expertise:

The general people may sometimes want an extraordinary demand to be fulfilled that is not under the national interest.

### 3- Political Polarization:

Divisions with the populace is also another negative aspect.

### 4- Mob Rule:

The most violent form of out of court justice by local community can lead to tyranny and wreck havoc.

## SOVEREIGNTY RESTS WITH

## the Parliament:

1) Representative Governance

Parliamentary representatives further represent local communities.

2. Rule of law:

Parliamentary Sovereignty adheres to constitutional and legal framework.

3. Checks and balance

legislature's eye on law making results in transparency -

4. Stability and continuity

The parliamentary system the year of four or five in session holds supreme legitimacy.

CONS:

1) Detachment of people's support-

Most of the representatives become disconnected from public and <sup>their</sup> need & concerns.

2. Partisanship

The eruption of polarized politics are the fragmentations to be named.

3. Dominion of one group

Any group that holds influence can rule the parliament via this method and use it for its own benefits.



# SOVEREIGNTY RESTS WITH

## CROWN:

This model argues with monarchical sovereignty where authority is concentrated in monarch -

### PROS:

- 1- Symbol of unity.
- 2- Efficiency.
- 3- Tradition Continuity.
- 4- Centralized authority.

RESTS  
IN  
CROWN.

### CONS: Following are the cons -

- 1- Lack of accountability and abuse of power -
- 2- Outdated institutions
- 3- Public alienation and elite capture in power corridors -
- 4- Potential for tyranny and absence of checks

# Conclusions

Thus it can be alleged that all the locus of Sovereignty - people, parliament and Crown offers distinct advantages and disadvantages. In practice, most of the modern state emphasizes on adopting hybrid system of government. For example UK adopted such norms. This balance of approach offers stability, representation, and accountability.



Q 8:

## Public Opinion and Propaganda:

### Public Opinion:

Public opinion is the collective views and beliefs of the public on social, political and economic issues. It is generally spontaneous and reflective of diverse viewpoints. The expression of societal views and influence policy making expressively and democratically. It forms organically through debates, discussions and exposure of various sources of information.

### Examples of Public Opinion:

Public opinion polls on climate change, healthcare policies, inflation, role of law etc. It holds a central position to the functioning of democracy by reflecting



the will of the people

## Propaganda:

It is a systematic effort to influence people's opinion and beliefs through biased or manipulative information. It is a deliberate attempt from one side to bring about fissures and for misleading the other side of the government. The agenda and goal of the one party is to hurt the targets of the opposed party. It is usually engineered through mass communication tools such as media, speeches and advertisements. The modern tools of media are the basis of spread of propaganda. It is usually opaque and the intent of the initiator seems usually unknown at the initial stages of its implementation.

## Examples:

Discuss the differences side by side under same headings and add multiple arguments

Governments Campaigns



Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
glorifying war efforts etc. It has the tendency to suppress genuine public opinion.

## b) Political parties and Pressure Groups

### Political Parties:

Political parties are the organized groups aiming at gaining political power and govern the state. To contest elections, win powers, and implementation their political agenda.

Political parties are generally national and regional with supporters and representatives from many domains.

The scope is broad and encompasses wide range of national and international issues. They are directly elected by the people to participate in the governance. Modern methods of governance are elections, debates, policy implementation etc.



Examples:

- 1- Republican (USA)
- Democrat //

- 2- Labour (UK)
- Conservatives (//)

## Pressure Groups:

They are defined as an organized group that seek to influence government's policies without contesting elections. They form a lobby and advocate for a specific interest. They are often decentralized and focus on issues and sectors. The scope is narrow and particularly work for labour rights, environment protection, business uplifting and commercial activities. They exert indirect influence on the government by protests, hold positions in legislature and draft bills according to their own wishes and whims.



## Examples:

Different Commercial  
Groups -

## Conclusion

In a nutshell, it can be said that these kind of groups play vital role in shaping modern democracies and adopt different methods of operationality.

03