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Parper - I

Political Science

Section - A

QNO.2 Describe Main Similarities^{and differences} between Political Ideas of Plato and Aristotle...

Aristotle was the student of Plato. He was famous for rejecting Plato's theory of forms. Plato's theory was based on idealism whereas Aristotle had more realistic and empirical approach.

Similarities:

→ Political philosophy:

- Both Aristotle and Plato emphasized state's role in promoting virtue and common good
- They viewed politics as a mean to achieve a just and harmonious society.

→ Concept of Justice:

Plato and Aristotle considered justice central to Political theory. Plato emphasized justice as harmony among classes, while Aristotle saw it as fairness and distribution according to merit.

→ Virtue and the State:

Both agreed that a virtuous and just ruler is necessary for a just society. They stressed education of citizen to achieve common good.

add more arguments

Differences:

→ Idealism & Realism

Plato's theory of ideal state ruled by a philosopher king as described in The Republic, whereas Aristotle adopted a realistic approach

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and focused on practical governance in politics.

→ Views on state:

Plato believed in a rigid class structure with state controlling major aspects of life including education, property to ensure justice.

Aristotle advocated for a more flexible political system. He proposed a constitutional government and criticized excessive state control, emphasizing role of middle class.

→ Theory of forms Vs Empiricism:

Plato based his political ideas on Theory of forms, emphasizing eternal and unchanging ideals. Aristotle rejected the theory of forms focusing on empirical observation and analyzing political structure in real world.

→ Equality & citizenship leave a line space b/w headings for neatness.

Plato proposed a class society in his theory of ideal state by highlighting the inherent inequality of individuals. He divided them among producers, warriors and rulers. Whereas Aristotle, although not an egalitarian, he supported broader participation in politics and recognised value of middle class in stabilizing state.

Relevance Today:

→ Governance & Leadership

Plato's concept of philosopher king resonates with the need for an educated and morally upright leader in modern democracies.

Aristotle's constitutional governance influences

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

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contemporary political systems emphasizing balance and rule of law

→ Justice and Equity:

Plato's concept of justice guides modern debates on social justice and inclusive governance. Aristotle's idea of distributive justice, where resources are allocated based on merit, is relevant in economic and political policymaking.

→ Class Structure

Plato's class division resonates with modern stratification of society, prompting discussion about equity and mobility. Aristotle's emphasis on middle class as stabilizing force remains vital for addressing polarization and inequality in modern democracies.

→ Practical Governance & Ideals:

The conflict between Plato's idealism & Aristotle's realism reflects modern debate on utopian policies vs pragmatic solutions in contemporary politics.

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings and be on 7-9 pages.

end with conclusion.

Section-B

Q.No.8 Differentiate the following:

2. Public Opinion & Propaganda

Public Opinion:

'The aggregate of opinion people held regarding the current issues that confront the state.

→ It is always about the current or the living issues

→ It is the informed and educated opinion of the people.

Conditions for a sound Public Opinion:

→ Education: an aware public's opinion.

→ Freedom of Expression

→ Freedom of Speech

→ Social harmony

→ Economic Security

Propaganda:

'The deliberate and systematic dissemination of false information to create intensity and influence public's opinion.

→ It is always artificially constructed and manipulated to serve a specific agenda or purpose.

→ Aims to shape or manipulate public opinion to achieve specific opinion.

→ Example: 'The Independent' News reported that the US had spent \$500M in the production and dissemination of fake Al-Qaeda videos during the Iraq war.

b. Political Parties and Pressure Groups

Political parties

→ 'a group of people, more or less organized having same or nearly same opinion regarding issues that confront the state and which struggles for political power, in order to realise its goals or objectives or manifestos.'

→ They are elected by democratic process of elections

→ They influence policies

→ characteristics and functions of Political parties

1) Agreement on fundamental ideologies

2) They use constitutional means to obtain power i.e. Elections.

3) Organization and leadership.

4) Accountable to voters and subject to public scrutiny during elections.

→ Examples: Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Muslim League N (PMLN) etc.

Pressure Groups :

'Groups formed to influence public policy and decision making without seeking direct power.'

→ The main difference between political parties is the participation in Election process.

→ They use lobbying, protests, petitions, public campaigns and other means to influence policy-makers.

→ They have narrow focus on specific issues such as labor rights, environmental protection etc.

→ Example of National Rifle Association in US.

Q.No.6 Is populism inimical to liberal democracy,

Populism:

is a political approach that seeks to appeal to 'the people' by positioning them against 'the elite' or 'the establishment', who Populist often portray as corrupt, self-serving or disconnected from the needs of the masses.

Populism, thus, can often create conflict by creating a dichotomy of 'the people' versus 'the corrupt elite', which can often conflict with the principle of liberal democracy, freedom and actual rights.

This could be due to the following reasons:

1. Majoritarianism Vs Minority Rights:

→ populism often undermines minority rights as it often emphasizes will of majority.

whereas liberal democracy protects individual rights and minority groups against majoritarian excesses.

2. Concentration of Power:

→ Populism often centralize authority, claiming to directly represent the people, which can erode democratic process, whereas liberal democracy emphasizes separation of power and institutional checks to prevent authoritarianism.

3. Erosion of freedom:

can target press freedom, judicial independence and voices by branding them as part of elite.

whereas liberal democracy promotes freedom of speech.

Issues in Liberal Democracy

Populism gains power when liberal democracy fails to address pressing societal issues. In Pakistan several challenges have made populism appealing:

1. Economic disparities:

2. weak institutions
3. Identity politics: ethnic, religious and regional divisions.
4. Lack of Accountability: elite dominance, and lack of accountability in democratic processes.
5. Media and Technology: social media amplifies populist rhetoric, spreading polarizing narratives.

Contemporary context of Pakistan:

- Populist leadership: The use of Imran Khan, emphasizing anti-corruption and reform, resonates with public disillusioned by traditional parties.
- weak rule of law: Frequent disruption in civilian governance, military influence and judicial overreach weaken democratic principles, making populist leaders seem the 'Saviour!'
- Public discontent: economic crises inflation, unemployment and lack of basic services have fueled resentment against established parties, strengthening populist ideals.

Populism, while appealing in times of crisis, poses a significant threat to liberal democracy, freedom and actual rights by undermining pluralism, institutional independence and accountability.