

Mock Exam CSS-2026

Political Science (Paper-I)

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Batch: 405 → LMS → 40389

(Part-I)

Question → 3

Utilitarianism: A Response to Social Contract Theory

1) Introduction:

Social Contract Theory was brought up by thinkers like Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau. They believed that state is formed through a mutual consensus among the Civil Society. The purpose is to establish order, political rights and make laws binding on citizens. On contrary, a new approach was developed by Jeremy Bentham and J.S. Mill called Utilitarianism. It stands on the idea of "Greatest number of happiness for greatest no. of people". Hence, it justifies the relation of State and citizens with the attributes of pain and pleasure.

2) Differences between Social Contract theory and Utilitarianism:

1) Political Obligation:

Utilitarianism: The people are bound to political obligation only if the states ensures maximising pleasure for greatest number of people and

minimising pain for greatest number of people as well.

Social Contract:

The people have political obligation because the state is a result of voluntary agreement or consensus among them. As they themselves chose the state and its leader then they are obliged to follow their orders.

2. Legitimacy of Government:

Utilitarianism:

The government of an ystate is justified and legitimized if it guarantees to provide welfare and happiness to people which is producing utility. If it fails to maximise pleasure and minimise pain then that government would be illegitimate and people can protest against it.

Social Contract:

The government is always legitimate because it is the representatives among the people. As the people made them the sovereign with their consent so they have the authority to control and order them.

3) Nature of Human Being :

Utilitarianism:

According to Bentham and Mill, humans are rational pleasure seekers who are well aware of the consequences of their actions. They tend to opt those decisions that grant them maximum pleasure or even minimal to no pain.

Social Contract:

There are different views within this theory but still they all contradict those of utilitarianism. As per Hobbes, human is a cruel and selfish being who needs a sovereign in order to stay in limits. But Locke suggests that nature of human is sympathetic and innocent and Rousseau implies that human is good by birth but it's the society that corrupts it.

4. Purpose of State:

Utilitarianism:

The sole purpose of the state is to maximise pain and overall happiness of the people. It should not just depend on individuals happiness or pain but the collective pain or pleasure should be considered.

Social Contract:

The state exists to protect the natural rights of all people and not just a few. Its purpose is to establish peace as well as the general will should also be kept in view of the public. It is the collective will of all the people of society and is different from maximum number of people.

5) Individual Rights and Laws:

Utilitarianism:

It emphasises more on the ~~individual~~ collective happiness than on individual rights. The laws are also concentrated upon producing maximum pleasure regardless of the fact even if few individuals

rights are undermined as the focus is on maximum pleasure.

Social Contract:

Rights are of utmost importance in this theory as they are foundation of the social contract. Especially in Locke's idea, rights are of high regard. Moreover, laws are meant to reflect social agreement or general will.

6) Role of Consent:

Utilitarianism:

In this concept, the consent is not as much importance if the utility is being favoured or benefited. It implies that if the pleasure is maximum then the consent of a few could be disregarded as majority is authority.

Social Contract:

Even if the few disagree, then their consent is considered. Unlike utilitarianism, the legitimacy is centered upon the consent.

7) Concept of Justice:

Utilitarianism: Justice is centered upon the idea of increasing social happiness and regarding the justice for maximum number of people.

Social Contract:

It emphasises on what the individuals agree upon and consent is important in this regard as it is what was agreed upon in the original contract.

8) Critique of Social Contract by Utilitarianism:

Utilitarians argue that the actual consequences matter more than the hypothetical argument or contract. Bentham regarded contract theory as some imaginary contract and only the maximum number of pleasure can favour the people as majority is favoured in this case.

9) Conclusion:

Social contract is more like a theoretical concept as per the utilitarians and they give their own theory as a response to it. Even if the consent is missing but it still claims to guarantee the maximum number of people and favour them. Also, Social Contract theory has an edge over utilitarianism as consent is given importance there.

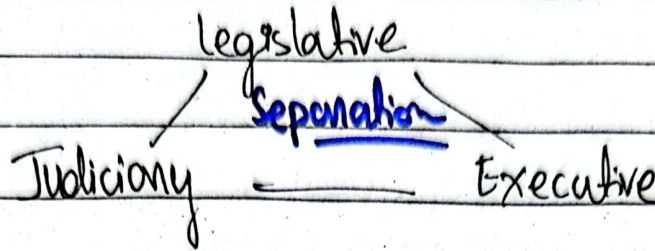
Question: 4

Montesquieu's contributions to Political Science:

Montesquieu is considered the Aristotle of 18th Century due to his realist nature and the classification of classes. He studied politics as an empirical science not just a philosophy. Also, his famous work *The Spirit of Laws* (1748) analysed law, government, economy and institutions as an integrated manner. He laid the groundwork for modern constitutionalism.

• Separation of Powers:

He proposed that political liberty can only be ensured when both the institutions are separated.

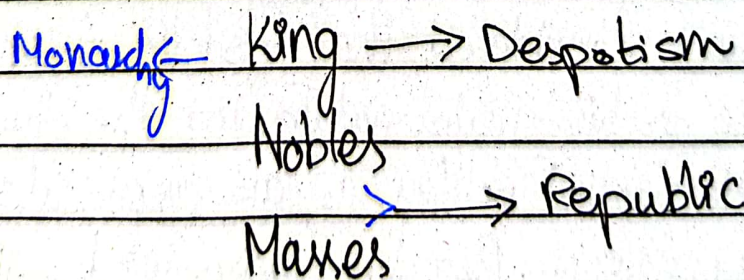


According to him, a system of checks and balance is essential to prevent tyranny in the state.

When same body is responsible for making as well enforcing and interpreting the laws, then it is quite possible that the state would fall into the hands of tyrant. Hence, only a moderate government can make and implement good laws and it is possible only where powers are separated.

• Classification of Government:

He classified the government into three tiers just like Aristotle distributed the society into three classes.



The first is Republic which is a democratic system between masses and nobles where nobles are elected. Second is monarchy where absolute authority is with king only.

Thirdly, there is despotism where government is by one person and there are no laws, unlike monarchy.

• Comparative Methodology:

Montesquieu applied a comparative method like that of Aristotle's study. He compared various kinds of governments, legal systems, economic structures and argued that laws correspond to spirit of each society. He implied that

Authority of State $\propto$ liberty of individuals.

• Influence on Modern Political Thought:

He laid the foundation of modern constitutionalism. He shifted traditional political science towards empirical observations. His famous book "Spirit of Laws" also became a foundational text for modern political science. He revived the same spirit of Aristotle but with a modern approach.

Part - B (Question - 8)

Political Parties and Pressure Groups:

• Introduction:

Political parties and pressure groups are two distinct but essential components in modern democracies. Although they are distinct but they are dependent on each other while process of policy-making is done. Political parties are the group of people that participate in electoral processes, aim to acquire governance and work for power and public welfare. Whereas, pressure groups seek to shape public narratives and policy and decision-making without directly contesting in elections.

• Role in Policymaking Process: Complements and Conflicts:

1) Functional Interdependence:

Political parties often relies on pressure groups for policy ideas and expertise to gain their support. Pressure groups also support them if their interests and aims with those of political parties, ensuring mutual benefits and dependence on each other.

2. Electoral support and Mobilisation:

Pressure groups can influence voting and electoral processes which can later favour in policy-making processes. Political parties often require such groups for election campaigns and putting out their ideas. As the voters are crucial for shaping out any policy of political parties.

3. Conflict and Competition:

When there is a clash between parties and groups, as their interests can diverge too. Then both may challenge one another and create a party dominance. Pressure groups can also challenge the policies of the party if their interests are not addressed or not favoured.

4. Mediation between Citizens and State:

Pressure groups act as intermediaries representing specific social interests. Political parties aggregate diverse interests and often neglect the overall interests of individuals at grassroot levels. This interaction between both groups and parties ensures a holistic view of public policymaking process.

5) Institutionalisation and Flexibility.

Political parties are structured for long-term governance and pressure groups are more flexible as their focus is on single-issue, allowing them to correspond quickly and effectively. Parties often have to cooperate with such groups to remain relevant and responsive before public.

6) Critical Analysis:

The relationship can also neglect national welfare if the parties incline themselves a lot to interests of pressure groups thus supporting just a faction. Also, strong parties can dominate such groups too neglecting regional interests and favouring elites only. In weaker democracies, pressure groups may dominate leading to policy capture and corruption too.

7) Conclusion:

Political parties and pressure groups maintain a complex, independent relationship. A healthy democracy is one that balances both ensuring national interests and policy formation effectively. Their interaction represents innovation, accountability and often a conflict-mitigation processes when their interests diverge.