

SECTION-A

QUESTION No.1

"Aristotle was great but not a grateful student of Plato."

This statement suggests two main things.

1. Aristotle was intellectual brilliant and one of the greatest philosopher in history.
2. He did not simply accept Plato's teachings, instead he openly criticized and rejected several core Platonic ideas.

Major areas where Aristotle went against Plato's ideology.

1. Theory of Forms (Ideas)

Plato argued that true reality exists in a separate, non-material world of Forms.

For example, the physical tree is imperfect, but the form of Tree in the world of ideas is perfect and eternal.

Aristotle strongly criticized this. He argued that there is no separate world in forms. Forms exists inside things themselves, not in a separate realm.

①
He said, "Plato is my friend, but truth is a better friend."

Thus, Aristotle directly opposed Plato's central doctrine.

2. Knowledge and Reality

According to Plato knowledge comes from reason and recollection of the eternal ideas. Senses deceive us.

Aristotle believes knowledge comes from experience, and observation is the starting point of all knowledge. The senses are trustworthy.

This is a major departure, shifting philosophy from metaphysics to scientific inquiry.

3. Political Philosophy

Plato's ideal state in Republic is rigid and hierarchical. There is philosopher-kings, Guardians, and Producers. He also advocated communal property and communal family among rulers.

Aristotle rejected these notions. The idea of philosopher-kings is unrealistic.

Communism of property or wives will weaken responsibility.

Aristotle favored practical politics, unlike Plato's idealism.

4. Art and Poetry

According to Plato poetry is imitation and is three steps removed from truth. It corrupts emotions.

Aristotle defends poetry, according to him poetry represents universal truth.

Tragedy purifies emotions through catharsis.

Art is valuable and educational.

Aristotle completely overturns Plato's critique of art.

Why Aristotle was "not a grateful student" of Plato

Although Aristotle respected Plato deeply and spend 20 years in the Academy. He criticized Plato's most important ideas. He built entirely new philosophical system that replaced Plato's idealism with realism. Thus, intellectually he was a reformer, not

a follower, and in that sense "not a grateful student".

QUESTION No. 3

Montesquieu as the "Aristotle of the 18th Century"

Montesquieu (1689-1755) earned this title because, like Aristotle, he adopted a scientific, empirical, and comparative approach to the study of political systems. Aristotle had earlier examined 158 constitutions to understand how governments function.

Montesquieu revived this approach in the 18th century and laying the foundation of modern political science.

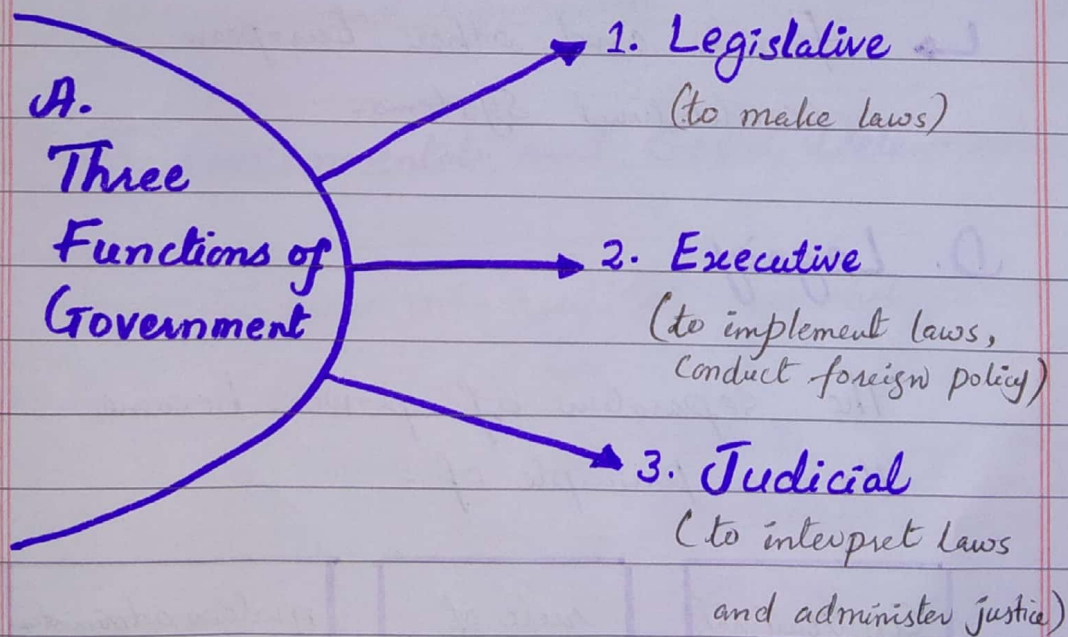
1. His Contributions to Political Science

Montesquieu viewed political institutions not in isolation but as a products of geographical, social, economic, and cultural factors. He introduced a systematic, scientific method to political inquiry. He

used observation rather than speculation, seeking general laws governing human societies. This intellectual spirit places him in the same lineage as Aristotle, who treated politics as a science grounded in empirical analysis.

2. Theory of Separation of Powers

This is Montesquieu's most enduring contribution. In *The Spirit of Laws* (1748), he proposed that political liberty can be preserved only when the powers of government are separated and balanced.



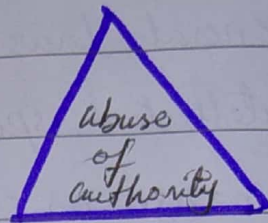
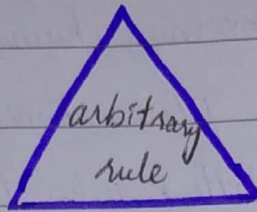
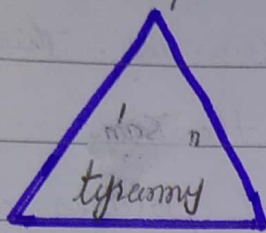
2. Rationale

Montesquieu feared concentrated powers.

His famous dictum:

"Power must check power."

The separation of functions prevents:



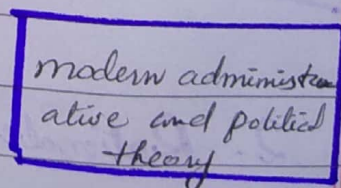
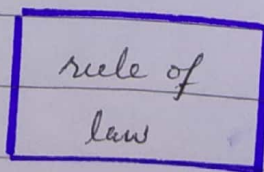
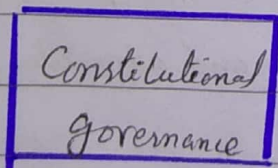
3. Checks and Balance

Montesquieu did not imagine strict isolation of powers but mutual control, so that no branch dominates other. This model profoundly influenced:

- ↳ the United States Constitution
- ↳ modern liberal democracies
- ↳ French and other European constitutional systems.

D. Legacy

The separation of powers became the core principle of:

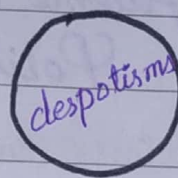
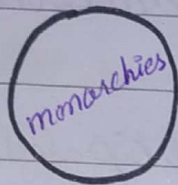
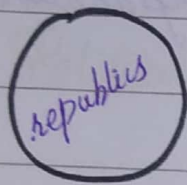


3. Comparative Methodology

Montesquieu's comparative methodology is another reason he is compared to Aristotle.

A. Study of Different Political Systems

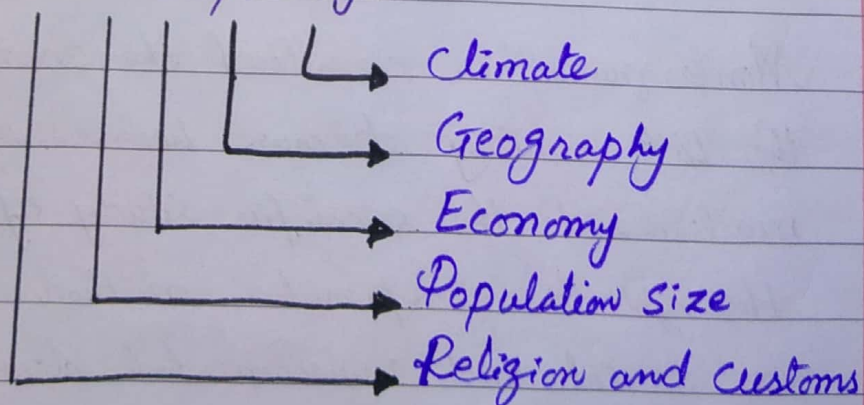
He analyzed a wide variety of governments:



He compared their structural features, spirit, strengths, and weaknesses.

B. Environmental and Social Determinants

Montesquieu introduced the idea that political forms are shaped by:



C. Search and General Laws

He attempted to uncover general principles
Such as:

- Why republics need virtue
- Why monarchies rely on honour
- Why despotisms function through fear

D. Influence on Modern Comparative Politics

Montesquieu anticipated:

- Modern structural functionalism
- Comparative constitutional analysis
- The interdisciplinary nature of political science

4. Why Montesquieu is the "Aristotle of the 18th Century"

Montesquieu is considered the Aristotle of the 18th century because he revived and modernized the scientific study of politics through his comparative method, focus on social and environmental determinants and his seminal doctrine of separation of powers, which became the cornerstone of modern

Constitutional democracy.

SECTION - B

QUESTION No. 8

Relationship Between Political Parties and Pressure Groups

Political Parties :

Political parties aim to gain political power by contesting elections. They represent ^{broad} ideologies and wide-ranging policy agendas. They are accountable to voters.

Pressure Groups (Interest Groups)

Pressure groups aim to influence policy without seeking direct political power. They focus on specific issues. They are accountable to their members and supporters.

Despite their different aims, both seek to shape public policy and represent societal interest.

How they complement and conflict with each other in Policy-making process

Complementary Role

1. Pressure groups provide expertise; Parties use it for policy
Pressure groups offer specialized knowledge, research, and technical information on specific issues like environment, health, labour. Political parties use this input to craft well-informed policies.
2. Pressure groups highlight issues; Political parties convert them into laws.

Pressure groups identify public problems and bring them to political agenda through campaign.

Political parties then incorporate these agendas into party manifestos, parliamentary debates and government policies.

Thus, pressure groups help to set the policy agenda, while parties help implement it.

Conflicting Role:

1. Narrow Interests vs Broader Interests

Pressure groups often pursue specific interests like farmers, traders, and industrialists. Political parties, however, must balance multiple social interests. This creates conflict when a group's demand may harm other sections of society.

2. Resistance to Government Policies

If a ruling party proposes a policy that harms a pressure group's interests, the group may protest, strike, lobby legislators.

This creates pressure on the government, leading to policy delays.