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Political Science I

Section - A

Q 2

'Aristotle was great but not a grateful student of Plato.' Explain this statement with reference to the notions where Aristotle went against Plato's ideology.

Aristotle was a great philosopher of his age. He was a student of Plato and learned much from him but he was not convinced by many of his works and theories. 'He was not a grateful student of Plato'. He rejected many of his ideas later on. Both Plato and Aristotle based their theories on four widely accepted beliefs about knowledge:

- Knowledge must be of what is real.
- The world experienced via the senses is what is real.
- Knowledge must be of what is fixed and unchanging.
- The world experienced via the senses is not fixed and unchanging.

Plato chose to reject the claim that the world experienced through the senses is real while Aristotle rejected the claim that knowledge is fixed and unchanging. Now, Plato had to give account of where

ideas are placed in his theory of forms.

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knowledge could be found, while Aristotle had to account for how to have knowledge of that which is undergoing change.

Plato's theory of forms: claimed that particulars are only crude representation of their forms. For instance, the Helen of Troy is physical and accessible to the senses. Her beauty is temporary and relative to the observer because aging and individual opinion may alter her beauty.

Plato claimed that the form of beauty is not accessible to the senses and is not physical; it exists outside of time and space and so can only be understood through reason. The form of beauty also differs from the beauty particular because it is eternally and irrefutably beautiful no matter who experiences it and at what time.

Aristotle on forms refuted Plato's definition, calling it unclear and illogical to claim that a chair can be understood to be a chair due to its relationship with a form existing outside of time and space.

Aristotle's defining of an object's form was through the object's purpose, which it has been given by the designer. So, a chair is a chair because it has been designed to function as a chair. That of which a chair is made could have been given a different form if it had been arranged differently. This way, the

form of an object exists within the object and all similarly designed and prepared objects

The main focus of Plato is a perfect society. He creates a blueprint for a utopian civilisation in his book, 'The Republic'. He sought to cure human afflictions and miseries.

Aristotle, on the other hand, is not concerned with perfecting society. He sought to improve on the existing one. Rather than producing a blueprint for the perfect, Aristotle suggested, in his work, 'The Politics', that the society itself should strive to reach for the best possible system that could be attained.

— Q4 —

Montesquieu is considered to be the Aristotle to be the Aristotle of the 18th century.

Explain with to his contributions to political science, especially his theory of separation of powers and comparative methodology.

Montesquieu is called the 'Aristotle of 18th century' due to his similar methodologies and his classification of government. Both philosophers also emphasized the influence of the physical environment on social institutions and laid the groundwork for the study of comparative government.

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Methodology: Montesquieu employed an inductive and historical method to analyze governments, mirroring Aristotle's approach.

Government classification: Like Aristotle, Montesquieu classified governments into distinct types: Republic, monarchy, despotism.

Influence of environment: Both the philosophers closely examined how factors like climate, geography influence a society's institutions and character.

Great Impact: Montesquieu's detailed analysis of government and the theory of separation of powers had a profound impact on modern political ideologies just like Aristotle's lasting influence.

Montesquieu also followed Aristotle by saying that law of society gives it peculiar and particular character as Aristotle said long ago.

Montesquieu's doctrine of separation of powers

He believed the separation of power among the various organs of government is the best shield against tyranny. According to Montesquieu there are three kinds of powers.

i. By virtue of the legislative power, the prince or king makes laws or amends or abrogates those laws which are contrary to the will of the subject.

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- ii. By virtue of executive powers, foreign policy, sending / receiving ambassadors, peace / war, providing protection against invasions.
- iii. By virtue of the judiciary powers, he is vested with powers to punish criminals and to protect the life and rights of the individuals.

When executive or legislative are in the hands of a same person, this will give rise to tyranny and injustice. Thus, the separation of powers fully ensures liberty and freedom.

Section - B

— Qs —

Explain the relationship between political parties and pressure groups. How do they complement and conflict with each other in the policymaking process?

Political parties and pressure groups have a deep rooted and interdependent relationship. Parties need groups for votes, funds, and support to win power, while pressure group rely on parties to access and influence government with groups backing candidates, shaping platforms, opportunities, providing manpower, shared members.

How they complement each other: Political parties and pressure groups complement each

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other as in:

- 1) Electoral support: groups endorse candidates, donate campaign etc.
- 2) Policy influence: Groups try to get their specific interests into parties providing them with speech material, direction.
- 3) Shared membership: Individuals often belong to both, creating ideas and manpower, informing parties about group concerns.
- 4) Access to power: Pressure groups use parties to influence lawmakers and gain access to those in authority.

Conflict / Differences between political parties and pressure groups

Political parties and pressure groups differ from each other in the following ways:

- Scope: Parties aim for winning elections and popularity while groups focus on specific issues (environment, labour, business)
- Responsibility: Parties hold governmental responsibilities, whereas pressure groups influence policy without direct accountability.
- Groups may try to infiltrate parties to gain control, but rarely succeed fully, leading to ongoing negotiations

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Pressure groups are vital resources for parties, and parties are essential means for groups to achieve their goals.

— Q.6 —

Shed light on Fascism and Nazism. Explain relationship and relativity of Capitalism with democracy.

Fascism

- Fascism believed in the cooperation of all elements to form an organic state.
- Fascists saw state as an unimportant element of their beliefs.
- Believed in class system.
- considered state as a means of advancing the goal of nationalism.
- 'Fascism' from 'fasces' was a symbol of power in the ancient Roman empire.

Nazism

- emphasized on racism.
- believed in the superiority of a state ruled by a particular race.
- class-based society a hindrance to racial unity.
- considered the state as a tool for the preservation and advancement of the master race.
- Nazism is derived from the German language name of the National Socialist German Workers' Party.

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Difference

Capitalism

- Goods (production)
- free market = competition
- Supply and demand.
- Supply: the quantity of available products
- Demand: quantity of a product that people need
- class division

Democracy

- Natural Rights: life, liberty, pursuit of happiness.
- Economic freedom
- Citizen participation
- Vote
- majority rule
 - many viewpoints
 - direct republic
 - vote for officials

