

Political Parties And Pressure Groups

Introduction:

A group of people, more or less organized, having same or nearly same opinion regarding issues that confront the state and which struggle for political powers in order to realize its goals.

- It is the struggle for political powers, that differentiate political parties from pressure groups.

Both the political parties and pressure groups impact the public policies, the diff is political parties participate in elections and remain on the screen. The pressure group remain behind the screen and do not participate in any sort of elections but influence the government.

The conflict between the political parties and pressure groups influence the political process.

- Pressure groups are of great importance in states like USA. eg NRA in USA.

- The pressure groups do lobbying. like the NRA doing gun lobbying.

→ These groups bribe and pressure the state.

POLITICAL PARTIES:-

"Political party" is defined as politically organized ^{community} committee of people having similar world view aiming to achieve political power.

Features:

1. Organization:

- Hierarchical structures
↳ (Not equal)

2. Vision:

- Common vision.
- They have similar view point on key issues.
- (Religion, democracy, capitalism)
- The ~~the~~ manifestation of the vision is written in the manifesto of the party.

3. Power:

- Politically parties essentially meant to get power.
- (Power may be a mean to achieve the ends).

4. Lawfulness:

They operate within the limits of law.

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Characteristics and Functions of Political Parties:

1. Agreement on fundamental ideas.
e.g. left wing = liberals = Change
right wing = conservatives = status Quo
2. They use constitutional means to gain powers i.e., elections.
They use ballots not bullets.
3. Organization and leadership:
organized Party: * Leadership.
* Easy access from leaders to workers.
4. - Political party shape public opinion.
5. The biggest critic of a govt. is always a political party that is in opposition.

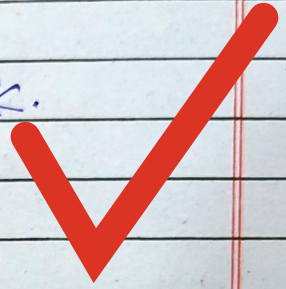
TYPES:

a. Liberal:

Liberal political parties ~~are~~ promote change, reforms and they are anti-status quo. They are receptive to positive change.

e.g. ~~They~~ Democrats in US.

- Labour party in UK.



b. Conservative Parties:

Conservative parties are traditionalist. They like the current system to continue, they resist change, they prefer to live with traditions. They do not want changes that challenge the foundation of traditions.

Preservation of their political, social and economic system is their top priority of these states.

e.g. - Republicans in US

- Conservatives in UK.

c. Reactionary Parties:

Reactionary parties are those parties who want to re-establish and revive an old system.

e.g. Rss in India.

Neo-Nazi parties in Europe.

d. Radicals or Revolutionary Parties:

Radical or revolutionary parties want abrupt change and comprehensive change of political system. but they do not want the old system, they want to establish a new kind of system. They want a comprehensive new change.

e.g.: - Communists/Marxists.

Liberals } → change → Gradual → via reforms
 Radicals } → Abrupt → via revolutions

Conservatives } → status quo → Present
 Reactionary } → Past (Revive)



Right Wing Parties:

In modern times, the right wing parties are usually the conservatives, reactionaries and they are tilted towards religion. (Far right = Extremely conservative)
 e.g.: Conservatives, BJP, RSS

Left Wing Parties:

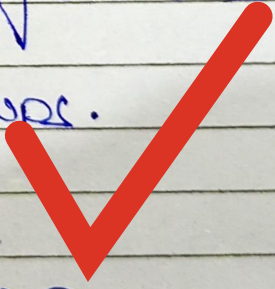
They are liberals, radicals and they are mostly secular.
 (Far left = Extremely liberal).

Pressure Groups:

Interest groups and organized associations that seek to influence public policy, legislation and government decisions without attempting to capture political power or contest elections.

The main goal of such group to preserve and promote specific interests of its groups

Classifications of Pressure Groups:

- a. Economic pressure Groups.
e.g. Trade unions
 - b. Social Pressure Groups.
e.g. Human rights organizations
 - c. Religious Pressure Groups.
 - d. Institutional Groups
e.g. Bureaucratic groups
 - e. Ethnic Pressure Groups.
e.g. Language Based Groups
- 

How the Political Parties And Pressure Groups Complement Each other:

i. Policy input and support:

Pressure, though not in power but they give genuine and effective information and expert opinions to the political parties for policy making and implementation.

ii. Mobilization of support

The pressure groups mobilize public support on various issues like the environmental and human right issues. Political parties use this support for their benefits.

iii. Accountability:

Pressure groups keep a check on the political parties and act as a watchdog for the proper functioning of the state policies.

iv. Advocacy for Public welfare:

For the pressure groups, the only thing matter is the welfare of public. So they make the policies to adhere with the welfare of general public.

How the Political Parties And Pressure Groups Conflict Each Other?

I. Pressure on Policy Making:

Pressure groups may pressurize the political parties to make policies that are financially burdening and politically unpopular.

II. Competing Agendas:

The pressure groups have a narrow and limited agenda. While the political parties on the other hand have a broader and state level agenda. The conflicts result in conflicts.

III. Ideological Differences:

Most of the time, the pressure groups are tilted towards a political party, creating differences with the other parties. This issue creates conflicts.

IV. Electoral Constraints:

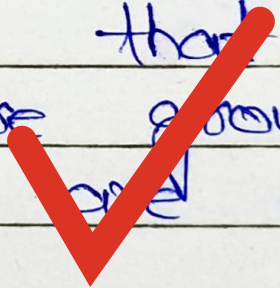
The political parties always think about their vote bank and the pressure groups think about their members only. This difference creates a friction when there comes a

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a conflict.

Conclusion:

Pressure groups and political parties are the essential units of political process. Sometimes they complement and sometimes contradict, depending upon the nature of policy and their interests in the policy. Any political process can be good and worthy, if that is followed when the pressure groups and political parties are complementing each other.



Part II

Section - A

Q No. 2.

Aristotle was Great But Not a Grateful student of Plato:

Introduction:

"Plato is dear,
Truth is dear,
Nay, truth is
dearer than Plato."

— Aristotle

Aristotle and Plato were the greatest philosophers of their time. Aristotle was the student of Plato rather he was one of the best students of Plato. But he contradicts with Plato at some points in his theory. Although, there are similarities but there are differences too. As theories are based upon perceptions and perception of thinking about reality varies from person to person. Thus, the differences in the philosophical thoughts should be regarded as a tool to determine their relations.

Notions Where Aristotle Went Against Plato's Theory:

Besides the similarities in the theories of Plato and Aristotle. There are certain differences too. There are some notions where Aristotle went against Plato's ideology, which are as follows,

a. Rule of Law:

Aristotle went against his teacher when he suggested the rule of law. Plato on the other hand was in favor of rule of a philosopher.

For Aristotle, no one is above the law and everyone is equal in the eyes of law.

For Plato, the philosopher sovereign was above the law.

b. Differences in Methodology

Aristotle went against his teacher in terms of constructing his theory or philosophy.

Plato used the deductive method to deduct his theory.

Aristotle used the inductive method to deduct his theory.

c. Differences in the Concept of Family and Property:

Plato gave the concept of communism for the citizens or ruler class and forbade them from owning any property and making any family.

Aristotle, on the otherhand was of the view that man cannot survive alone as he is a social animal. Thus, every individual has a right to make a family.

d. Differences in the Concept of Gender Equality:

Plato was in favour of gender equality and supported the idea of equality of man and woman. Plato, makes no restriction on the woman from being the part of the ruling class.

Aristotle, on the otherhand believed that man and woman can never be equal. Thus woman has no right to pursue education and take part in the affairs of the state.

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e. Differences in the Concept of Education:

Plato made education for everyone without any discrimination. The education system of Plato is mostly termed and regarded as long and tiresome.

Aristotle, made a clear gender based discrimination in terms of the education. He made education available only for the man. Moreover, the education system of Aristotle is relatively short and easy.

f. Differences in the Idea of Constitutionalism:

Aristotle believed in polity and was a supporter of constitutionalism.

Plato, on the other hand believed in totalitarianism and had a firm believe in the role of the sovereign philosopher.

The difference in the concept of constitutionalism gave an idea of differences between a teacher and his student.

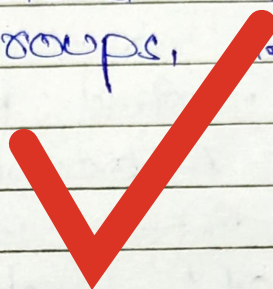
g. Differences in the Division of Society:

Plato divided the society into three distinct classes. i.e,

- i. statesman
- ii. soldiers
- iii. Rulers.

Aristotle divided the society into two groups, i.e,

- i. slaves
- ii. Citizens.



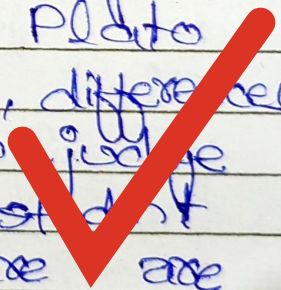
h. Totalitarianism Vs Polity:

Plato was in favor of the totalitarianism. i.e, state ruled by a single philosopher sovereign. No one will be above the sovereign. It is the philosopher sovereign, who will lead the ideal state in each and every aspect of life.

Aristotle was against of totalitarianism and he supported polity. He was of the view that totalitarianism breeds tyranny and anarchy. He gave the concept of polity.

Aristotle Vs Plato: A critical Analysis:

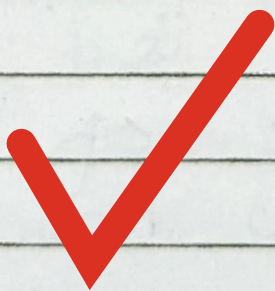
Aristotle was undoubtedly, a great student of Plato who differs with Plato on many points. Philosophies and theories are all about the perception of the theorists. And the perception of persons about reality varies from one to another. Although, there are certain differences between the theory of Plato and Aristotle but it cannot be said that Aristotle is not a grateful student. He mentioned Plato in his writings. Thus, differences are not a scale to judge the gratefulness of a student and his teachers as there are similarities in the theories too. Thus, a conclusion must never be drawn seeing the differences only. The similarities must also be taken into consideration to draw a right and impactful conclusion.



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Conclusion:

Difference of opinion and perception are part and parcel of life. There is a concept exist that the differences of a student from his teacher often leads to lack of gratefulness. Like the idea, that portrayed for Aristotle for not being the grateful student of his teacher Plato because of the differences that had in their philosophies. Although, there are some differences but there are certain similarities.

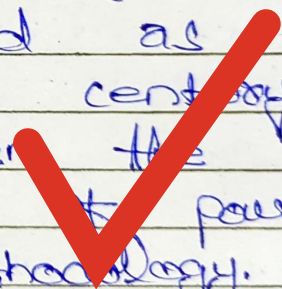


Q.No.4

Montesquieu: The Aristotle of 18th century:

Introduction:

Aristotle was famous for the the concept of ideal state that he had given with the idea of polity. A similarity is drawn between Aristotle and Montesquieu saying that the philosophy of Montesquieu is squarely inspired by the theory of Aristotle. Both have certain commonalities that Montesquieu is called as the Aristotle of 18th century. Montesquieu has given the theory of separation of power and comparative methodology.

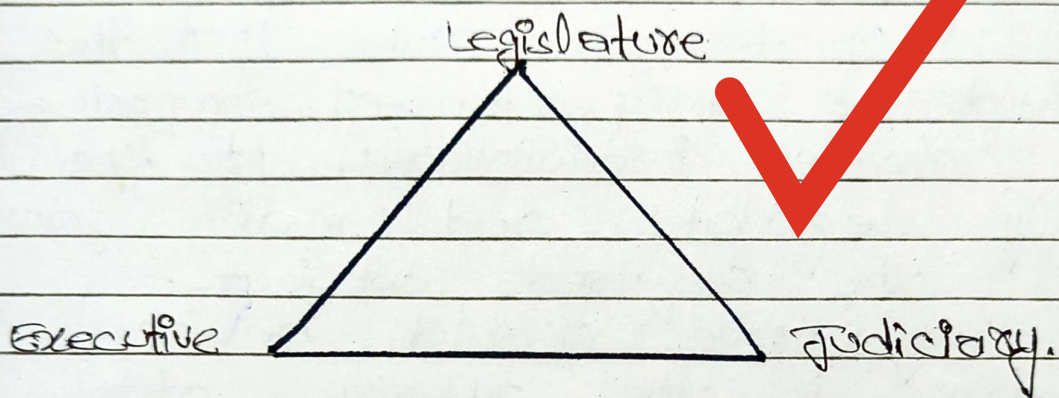


Theory Of separation Of Power:

Montesquieu in his famous book, 'The spirit of the laws' in 1748 discussed about the theory of separation of power. He said that judiciary, executive and legislative organs must be

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separated from each other and must not interfere in the affairs of each other. But there will be a concept of check from one organ on the functioning of the other.



Objective of the theory:

The theory of separation of power protects the liberty of individuals via creating a balance between the liberty of the individual and the authority of the state.

Monarchy was opposed by Montesquieu and he was of the view that there should be just laws in the society made by moderate institutions. True liberty is basically practiced under the law.

Three organs:

- 1- Legislature
2. Executive
- 3- Judiciary.

1. Legislature:

Montesquieu said that there should be a parliament comprising of elected individuals. It should only legislate and make laws on the required subjects.

Legislature should never interfere in the affairs of the judiciary and executive. Rather it will observe the proper functioning of the other two organs to keep a check.

2. Executive:

Executive will implement the laws made by the legislature. King will implement the law through his ministers.

The executive will only implement the already made laws and cannot interfere in the affairs of legislature and judiciary but it will always keep a check on the people.

functioning of these organs.

c: Judiciary:

The third organ of state will be judiciary which is responsible to ensure the rule of law and to interpret the laws made by the legislature in its true sense.

The judiciary cannot interfere in the matters of legislature and executive. But it will keep a check on the proper functioning of the other two organs.

The Concept of check in the Theory of Separation of Powers:

- Legislature will keep a check on the judiciary and executive.
- Judiciary will keep a check on the proper functioning of the executive and legislature.
- The ~~legislature~~^{executive} will keep a check on the proper functioning of the judiciary and legislature.

Why separation of Power is Necessary?

If all the powers are accumulated in one single organ then it will result into tyranny and anarchy.

As it is rightly said that "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely".

The Comparative Methodology that Montesquieu used.

Montesquieu was a French philosopher and he was of the view that the England is following the world's best model to run the affairs of state. He was against the monarchy in France. He studied the system of England and deduce the theory of separation of power and tried to implement it in France. He used the method of Comparative Methodology to deduce his theory by comparing the state system in France with that of England.

Classification of Government:

2-types.

a. Republic:

A government that is ruled by all or some people. In other terms it is called as democracy. In a republic, equality is always be the governing principle.

b. Monarchy:

Monarchy is a government by a single sovereign person, through the Nobles and established laws. In a monarchical system, honour is the governing principle.

c. Despotism:

Despotism is a government that is arbitrarily ruled by a single person. There is no concept of law in a despotic state. Montesquieu called France a despotic state. In Despotism, fear is the governing principle.

Why Montesquieu is called
the Aristotle of
18th century.

a. Empirical Method:

Both Aristotle and
Montesquieu used the empirical
method to deduce their theories.

b. Classification of Government
on the Basis of Law

Both the theorists classified
the governments on the
basis of law. For instance, the
Republic by Montesquieu and polity
by Aristotle.

c. Separation of Power

The concept of separation
of power is same in both
the theories of Aristotle and
Montesquieu.

d. Both support Idealism:

Both Montesquieu and
Aristotle supported the concept
of Ideal State or Idealism.

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Conclusion:

Montesquieu is called as the Aristotle of 18th century. because of the commonalities that are present in the theories of both the philosophers. The concept of separation of powers is duly applied by the states of the contemporary world. For instance, the constitution of USA is the best example of the practical implementation of the idea of separation of powers by Montesquieu.