

**[ PART-B: Descriptive ]**

Time: 2 hrs. 40 min.

Marks: 50

[ Answer question no.1 & any four (4) from the rest ]

- 1. Critically discuss Leo Strauss's concept of Political Philosophy and evaluate the differences between normative and scientific social sciences. 10
- 2. What is civic republicanism? How did Hannah Arendt try to relate civic republicanism and the issue of citizenship? 3+7=10
- 3. What is Bolshevik revolution? Discuss critically the revolutionary theory of V. I. Lenin. 3+7=10
- 4. How Antonio Gramsci relates State and Society? 10
- 5. Discuss the Libertarian Theory of Robert Nozick. 10
- 6. What is Competitive Capitalism? How Friedman explained the concept of Competitive Capitalism? 2+8=10
- 7. Discuss Foucault's idea of Post Structuralism. 10
- 8. What is Neo Marxist Thought? Discuss some of the contributions made by the Neo Marxist Theorist. 5+5=10

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**MA POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FOURTH SEMESTER  
CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT  
MPS-401**

(Use separate answer scripts for Objective & Descriptive)

Duration : 3 hrs.

Full Marks : 70

**[ PART-A : Objective ]**

Time : 20 min.

Marks : 20

*Choose the correct answer from the following:*

*1x20=20*

- 1. Nozick argued that any attempt to set "patterns" of distribution of wealth must necessarily \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Help the disadvantaged members of society.
  - b. Incorporate the idea of "justice as fairness".
  - c. Follow entitlement theory.
  - d. Result in the violation of people's rights.
- 2. Rawls conceives of the original contract as one to:
  - a. Enter a particular society.
  - b. Set up a particular form of government.
  - c. Establish the principles of justice for the basic structure of society.
  - d. Establish the content of morality.
- 3. Which famous philosophical phrase did Hannah Arendt create?
  - a. "I think, therefore I am"
  - b. "God is dead"
  - c. "The banality of evil"
  - d. "Golden rule of ethics"
- 4. How did the American political scientist Harold Lasswell summarize political activity?
  - a. 'Politics is the art of the possible'.
  - b. 'Man is a political animal'.
  - c. Politics is about 'who gets what, when and how'.
  - d. All political power is corrupting.
- 5. According to Rawls, we can enter the original position:
  - a. Only by leaving society and remaking social institutions from scratch.
  - b. At any time, by simply following a certain procedure.
  - c. Only if we somehow forget who we are, which is very rare.
  - d. None of the above.
- 6. Lenin believed that the Bolshevik Party should be:
  - a. A mass worker's party.
  - b. Backing the provisional government during this chaotic period.
  - c. In support of fighting until Germany was defeated.
  - d. An elite group of dedicated Marxist revolutionaries capable of leading the masses.
- 7. What is Antonio Gramsci's view of power?
  - a. It comes out of a barrel of a gun
  - b. It is a mixture of coercion and consent
  - c. It is purely economic
  - d. All of the options given are correct

8. How long did Mao lead the Communist Party?
  - a. 42 years
  - b. 52 years
  - c. 41 years
  - d. 43 years
9. What were the three main factors that contributed to the rise of Stalin?
  - a. Stalin's testament, Trotsky's unpopularity in the Politburo and Lenin's manipulations.
  - b. Stalin's testament, Lenin's unpopularity in the Politburo and Trotsky's manipulations.
  - c. Lenin's testament, Trotsky's unpopularity in the Red Army and Stalin's manipulations.
  - d. Lenin's testament, Trotsky's unpopularity in the Politburo and Stalin's manipulations.
10. Why does Robert Nozick believe that any state that goes beyond the minimal state is unjust?
  - a. Such a state fails to achieve communitarian consensus on the good.
  - b. Such a state necessarily involves redistributive taxation that violates persons' natural entitlement rights.
  - c. Such a state would not be agreed to by rational, self-interested individuals in a fair initial bargaining situation.
  - d. This is a trick question since Nozick is an anarchist libertarian who does not think that any state is just.
11. What does the idea of 'positive liberty' mean?
  - a. The state has the right to intervene in the hope of making people's lives more fulfilling.
  - b. People should just get out there and do whatever they want.
  - c. Only self-confident people can be free.
  - d. Freedom means the absence of constraints deliberately imposed by other people.
12. According to Foucault:
  - a. Discourses constitute authority and knowledge.
  - b. Discourses are irrelevant.
  - c. Discourses constitute authority and knowledge and post-structuralists use the term discourses to mean that the link between knowledge and power is mutually constitutive.
  - d. 'The state' is the most important element in international politics.
13. An important difference between Robert Nozick's ideas and those of Rawls is that:
  - a. Nozick admires capitalism whereas Rawls rejects it.
  - b. Rawls is more concerned with individual liberty.
  - c. Nozick believes that people who acquire property through their labour should be allowed to keep it, while Rawls tries to justify a degree of redistributive taxation.
  - d. Nozick is more willing to justify state intervention.
14. Which of these is not usually seen as a constraint upon freedom?
  - a. Imprisonment.
  - b. Suppression of peaceful political dissent.
  - c. The inability to fly without mechanical aid.
  - d. The total prohibition of alcoholic stimulants and tobacco product.
15. In John Rawls's theory, principles of justice are established by people who are affected by what?
  - a. A veil of ignorance
  - b. A state of nature
  - c. Economic inequality
  - d. Short-sighted self-interest

16. After the Bolsheviks failed to win a majority, Lenin ordered the Red Army to disperse the:
  - a. Soviet
  - b. Duma
  - c. Constituent Assembly
  - d. Second Congress
17. Isaiah Berlin argued that:
  - a. The state can and should do more to reduce economic inequalities.
  - b. The criminal justice system is an unacceptable infringement of freedom.
  - c. Irrational people do not deserve freedom.
  - d. 'Positive' conceptions of liberty represented a serious threat to freedom.
18. Hayek believes that the market should:
  - a. Be absolutely free.
  - b. Be free in most cases, but also always just.
  - c. Be subservient to the needs of the society.
  - d. Be compatible with justice, but free.
19. Which one of the following statements about present day liberalism is not correct?
  - a. It is based on the principle of "possessive individualism".
  - b. It accepts the idea of positive liberty.
  - c. It believes in the principle of welfare state.
  - d. It advocates the idea of distributive justice.
20. Isaiah Berlin writes that we are "doomed to choose, and every choice may entail an irreparable loss."
  - a. True
  - b. False