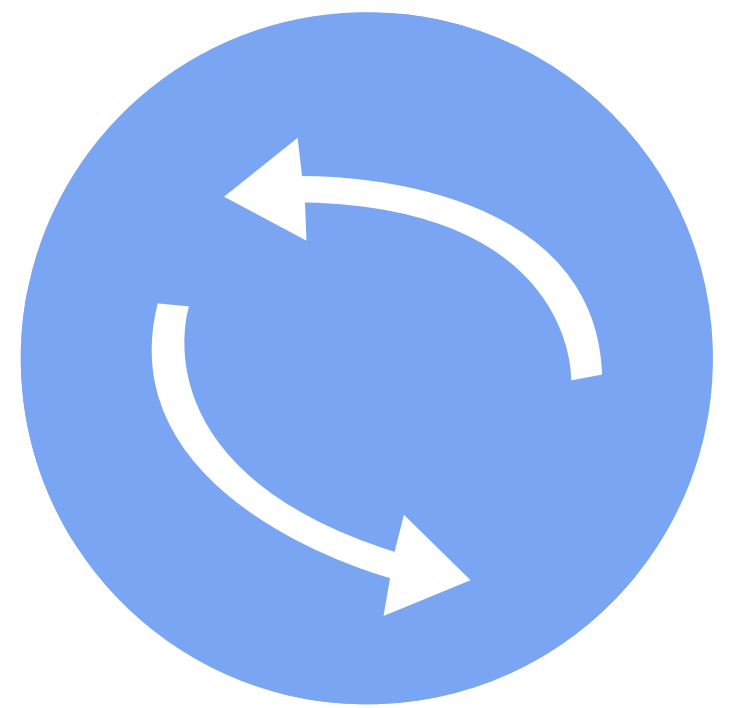


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MPS-001

SOLVED MOST
REPEATED
QUESTIONS



Curated List of 30 Questions
that are seen to be repeated
frequently in the examinations.

By FarLearner.com

MPS-001 Most Repeated Questions

1 . Critically examine or elaborate upon John Rawls' theory of justice.

Found in June 2020 (4), June 2021 (3), Dec 2021 (3), June 2022 (3), Dec 2023 (6), Dec 2024 (6)

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Answer : John Rawls is one of the most influential political philosophers of the twentieth century. His landmark work, *A Theory of Justice*, published in 1971, revitalized normative political theory. Rawls sought to provide a systematic and moral foundation for a just society, presenting his theory as “Justice as Fairness.”

Rawls begins with the idea of the “Original Position,” a hypothetical situation in which rational individuals come together to choose the principles that will govern society. To ensure fairness, these individuals operate behind a “Veil of Ignorance.” Under this veil, they do not know their social class, race, gender, talents, religion, or economic status. Because they lack knowledge of their future position in society, they are motivated to choose principles that are fair to all.

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From this thought experiment, Rawls derives two principles of justice. The first principle guarantees equal basic liberties for every individual.

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These liberties include freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, freedom of association, political participation, and protection under the rule of law. Rawls insists that these liberties must be equal and cannot be sacrificed for economic or social advantages.

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The second principle deals with social and economic inequalities. It has two parts: fair equality of opportunity and the Difference Principle. Fair equality of opportunity means that individuals with similar talents and abilities should have equal chances to attain positions and offices, regardless of their social background. The Difference Principle states that inequalities in wealth and income are acceptable only if they benefit the least advantaged members of society.

Rawls' theory is a response to utilitarianism, which measures justice in terms of overall happiness. Rawls criticizes utilitarianism because it may justify sacrificing the rights of a minority for the greater good of the majority. Instead, he emphasizes individual rights and fairness as primary values.

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Rawls also introduces the idea of a “well-ordered society,” where citizens accept the same principles of justice and institutions operate accordingly. He believes that justice is the first virtue of social institutions, just as truth is the first virtue of systems of thought.

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Critics of Rawls include Robert Nozick, who argued in *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* that redistributive taxation violates individual property rights. Despite criticisms, Rawls’ theory remains central in discussions of social justice, welfare policies, and democratic equality.

In conclusion, Rawls’ theory of justice provides a powerful framework for balancing liberty and equality. By emphasizing fairness and protecting the least advantaged, Rawls offers a morally compelling vision of a just democratic society.

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2 . Define or explain the concept of multiculturalism and discuss its critiques.

Found in June 2020 (10), June 2021 (9), June 2022 (9), June 2023 (8), June 2024 (9), Dec 2024 (7)

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Answer : Multiculturalism is a political and social philosophy that emphasizes the recognition, acceptance, and promotion of cultural diversity within a society. It emerged in response to increasing immigration, globalization, and the growing awareness of the rights of minority communities. Multiculturalism challenges the idea that a nation should be culturally homogeneous and instead argues for the coexistence of multiple cultural identities in a shared political framework.

Features of Multiculturalism

Recognition of Cultural Diversity – Multiculturalism emphasizes that societies are composed of diverse cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups. Each group should have the right to preserve its language, traditions, and cultural practices.

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Equality and Inclusion – All cultural groups are entitled to equal respect, rights, and protection under the law.

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Multicultural policies aim to prevent discrimination and marginalization of minority communities.

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Cultural Autonomy – Minority groups are allowed to make decisions about their own cultural life. For example, indigenous communities may manage their schools or cultural institutions according to their traditions.

Promotion of Tolerance – Multiculturalism encourages mutual understanding and respect between different communities. Educational programs, media campaigns, and cultural festivals promote awareness of diversity.

Integration without Assimilation – Unlike assimilationist approaches, which expect minority groups to adopt the dominant culture, multiculturalism encourages communities to integrate economically and politically while maintaining cultural distinctiveness.

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Examples of Multiculturalism
Canada – Canada is often cited as a successful multicultural state. Its policies protect the language, religion, and culture of its diverse population.

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The Canadian Multiculturalism Act (1988) legally supports cultural diversity.

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India – India, with its multiple languages, religions, and ethnic groups, has implemented policies like linguistic states and minority education rights to preserve diversity.

Australia and the UK – Both nations have policies that encourage multicultural education, cultural festivals, and media representation for minority groups.

Criticisms of Multiculturalism :

Despite its benefits, multiculturalism faces several criticisms:

Weakening National Unity – Critics argue that emphasizing differences may undermine a common national identity and reduce social cohesion. For instance, when communities focus on their cultural identity over shared civic values, it can create division.

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Encouragement of Segregation – Multicultural policies can unintentionally reinforce isolation of minority groups, leading to social segregation and parallel communities rather than integration.

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Conflict of Values – Cultural practices of some minority groups may conflict with the principles of liberal democracy, human rights, or gender equality. For example, practices like child marriage or caste discrimination may clash with national law.

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Overemphasis on Identity Politics – Some argue that multiculturalism prioritizes cultural identity over economic or political equality, potentially fragmenting public policy and creating competition between groups for recognition.

Importance of Multiculturalism

Despite criticisms, multiculturalism promotes social justice, equality, and human dignity. It provides a framework for minority groups to participate fully in political, social, and economic life.

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3 . Trace the historical background, evolution, or growth of democracy.

Found in Dec 2020 (2), June 2021 (2), June 2022 (2), June 2023 (2), Dec 2023 (2), Dec 2024 (2)

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Answer : The twentieth century is often described as the “century of democracy” because it witnessed an unprecedented expansion of democratic institutions, values, and practices across the globe.

At the beginning of the century, democratic governance was confined to a small number of countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States. Even in these countries, democracy was incomplete, as voting rights were restricted by property, race, or gender qualifications. Large parts of Asia, Africa, and Latin America were under colonial domination, while several European countries were ruled by monarchies or authoritarian regimes.

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The First World War (1914–1918) marked a turning point. The war led to the collapse of powerful empires such as the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian Empires. In their place, new nation-states emerged in Europe, many of which adopted democratic constitutions based on popular sovereignty and parliamentary government.

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The principle of national self-determination gained recognition, encouraging people to demand representative governance. However, many of these new democracies were fragile and lacked stable institutions.

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The interwar period (1919–1939) exposed the weaknesses of early democratic systems. Economic crises, particularly the Great Depression, created social unrest and political instability. In countries like Germany and Italy, democratic governments collapsed and were replaced by fascist regimes. Leaders such as Adolf Hitler demonstrated how democratic institutions could be manipulated and dismantled from within. This period showed that democracy requires strong institutions, and public commitment to survive.

The Second World War (1939–1945) once again reshaped the global political order. The defeat of fascism strengthened democratic ideals. After the war, there was widespread recognition that democracy, human rights, and the rule of law were essential for peace and stability.

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The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 reflected a global commitment to promoting self-determination, human rights, and international cooperation.

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The post-war era also witnessed decolonization in Asia and Africa. Colonized nations fought for independence and adopted democratic constitutions inspired by liberal and nationalist ideals. For instance, India became the world's largest democracy after independence in 1947, adopting universal adult suffrage and a parliamentary system. Although many newly independent states faced challenges such as poverty, ethnic conflict, and , democracy.

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During the Cold War (1947–1991), the world was divided between democratic capitalist states and communist socialist regimes led by the Soviet Union. While democracy expanded in Western Europe, North America, and parts of Asia, many countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia experienced authoritarian rule. Nevertheless, democratic ideals continued to influence political movements and opposition groups.

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The late twentieth century witnessed what political scientist Samuel Huntington called the “third wave of democratization.” Beginning in the 1970s in Southern Europe, Latin America, and parts of Africa and Asia, a series of countries transitioned from authoritarian rule to democracy.

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The most dramatic transformation occurred after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Eastern European countries transitioned from communist one-party systems to multiparty democracies. This marked a significant expansion of democratic governance.

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4 . Discuss feminism, its core postulates, and its different forms.

Found in June 2021 (8), Dec 2021 (9), June 2022 (8), Dec 2022 (9), Dec 2024 (9)

Answer : Feminism is a broad political and social movement that seeks to achieve equality between men and women in all spheres of life. It challenges the patriarchal structures that historically subordinated women and denied them equal rights, opportunities, and recognition. Feminism is not a single unified theory but a diverse body of ideas and movements that share certain core postulates centered on justice, equality, and human dignity.

One of the fundamental postulates of feminism is that gender inequality is socially constructed rather than biologically determined. Feminists argue that many differences between men and women are the result of

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cultural norms, traditions, and socialization processes rather than natural or inherent traits. Society assigns specific roles, expectations, and behaviors to women and men, often limiting women's opportunities and reinforcing stereotypes.

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For example, women have traditionally been confined to domestic roles, while men have been associated with public and political life. Feminists seek to dismantle these rigid gender roles and promote equal participation in all areas of society.

Another core postulate is the demand for equal rights and opportunities. Feminism advocates equal access to education, employment, political representation, and legal rights. Early feminist thinkers such as Mary Wollstonecraft argued in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* that women should receive the same educational opportunities as men because they are equally rational beings. The struggle for women's suffrage in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was also a significant milestone in achieving political equality. Feminists believe that equal rights are essential for women's empowerment and independence.

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Another important postulate of feminism is the recognition of patriarchy as a system of power.

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Patriarchy refers to a social system in which men hold primary power in political, economic, and cultural institutions. Challenging patriarchy requires structural changes in institutions as well as transformation in attitudes and social norms.

There are different strands of feminism that interpret these core postulates in various ways. Liberal feminism focuses on achieving equality through legal reforms and policy changes within the existing system. Socialist feminism links women's oppression to economic exploitation and capitalism, arguing that economic independence is crucial for liberation.

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In conclusion, the core postulates of feminism include the belief in gender equality, the social construction of gender roles, economic independence, and the recognition of patriarchy as a system of power. This reflects the global nature of gender discrimination worldwide.

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5 . Examine the various perspectives, criteria, or notions of citizenship.

Found in June 2020 (5), Dec 2021 (7), June 2023 (10), Dec 2023 (8), Dec 2024 (8)

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Answer : Citizenship refers to the legal and political status by which an individual is recognized as a member of a sovereign state. It establishes a formal relationship between the individual and the state, granting certain rights while imposing specific duties and obligations. Citizenship is not merely a legal concept; it also reflects a sense of belonging, identity, and participation in a political community. The criteria of citizenship determine who qualifies as a citizen and how that status is acquired or recognized.

One of the most important criteria of citizenship is birth. There are two classical principles governing citizenship by birth: jus soli and jus sanguinis. The principle of jus soli, meaning “right of the soil,” grants citizenship to individuals born within the territorial boundaries of a state. For example, the United States follows the principle of jus soli, where most individuals born on its soil automatically acquire citizenship regardless of their parents’ nationality. This principle promotes inclusiveness and territorial loyalty.

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The second principle, jus sanguinis, meaning “right of blood,” grants citizenship based on parentage. Under this system, a child acquires citizenship if one or both parents are citizens of that state, even if the child is born abroad. Many European countries traditionally follow jus sanguinis to preserve cultural continuity and national identity. This principle emphasizes descent and lineage rather than place of birth.

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Citizenship may also be acquired through marriage. In some countries, a foreign spouse of a citizen can apply for citizenship after fulfilling certain residency and legal conditions. Although marriage alone does not automatically guarantee citizenship in most modern states, it may simplify the naturalization process.

Beyond legal acquisition, citizenship also involves participation in public life. Political criteria are central to the concept of citizenship. Citizens enjoy political rights such as voting, contesting elections, forming political associations, and holding public office. Political equality ensures that each citizen has an equal voice in governance.

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In democratic systems, citizenship is closely tied to active political participation and civic engagement. In the contemporary world, the concept of dual or multiple citizenship has gained importance. Globalization, migration, and transnational identities have made it possible for individuals to hold citizenship in more than one country.

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Debates over citizenship often revolve around inclusion and exclusion. Strict citizenship laws may exclude migrants, refugees, and stateless persons, raising questions about human rights and global justice. Inclusive citizenship policies, on the other hand, promote social integration and equality but may raise concerns about national identity and security.

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6 . Explain the rise, growth, or various theories of nationalism.

Found in Dec 2020 (7), Dec 2022 (4), June 2023 (9), June 2024 (8), Dec 2024 (5)

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Answer : Nationalism is a political ideology that emphasizes loyalty, unity, and identity based on a shared nation. A nation may be defined by common language, culture, history, ethnicity, or political values. Over time, scholars have developed various theories to explain the origin and nature of nationalism.

One major theory is the primordial theory of nationalism. According to this view, nations are natural and ancient entities rooted in shared blood ties, culture, and tradition. Primordialists argue that national identity is deeply embedded in human consciousness and emotional bonds. This theory emphasizes the organic and emotional aspects of national belonging.

In contrast, the modernist theory argues that nationalism is a modern phenomenon that emerged in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Scholars like Ernest Gellner contend that nationalism developed alongside industrialization and modernization. [FarLearner.com](https://farlearner.com)

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As societies shifted from agrarian to industrial economies, standardized education, communication, and centralized administration created a unified national culture.

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Similarly, Benedict Anderson described the nation as an “imagined community.” According to Anderson, members of a nation imagine themselves as part of a larger community despite never meeting most of their fellow citizens. Print capitalism and mass media played a crucial role in creating this shared identity.

Another important theory is the ethnic theory of nationalism, associated with scholars like Anthony D. Smith. This perspective combines elements of primordialism and modernism. It argues that while nationalism is modern, it draws upon pre-existing ethnic symbols, myths, and memories.

Civic nationalism emphasizes shared political values, citizenship, and commitment to democratic principles rather than ethnicity. It is associated with countries like France and the United States, where national identity is based on constitutional ideals.

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Cultural nationalism stresses common language, traditions, and heritage as the basis of unity. Economic nationalism focuses on protecting national industries and resources from foreign influence.

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In conclusion, theories of nationalism range from primordial and ethnic explanations to modernist and civic interpretations. Each theory highlights different aspects of national identity, demonstrating that nationalism is a multifaceted and evolving phenomenon.

7 . Explain the significance of civil society in democracy and its relationship with the state.

Found in Dec 2020 (8), June 2023 (6), Dec 2023 (10), Dec 2024 (10)

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organizations (NGOs), student groups, cultural associations, and social movements. The state, on the other hand, represents the formal political authority that exercises sovereignty over a defined territory through institutions such as the legislature, executive, judiciary, police, and military.

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The concept of civil society has evolved over time. In classical political thought, civil society was often equated with the political community itself. However, modern thinkers made a distinction between the state and civil society. G.W.F.

According to Gramsci, the ruling class maintains dominance not only through political control but also through cultural and ideological consent shaped within civil society institutions like schools, churches, and media. Thus, civil society can either reinforce state power or challenge it.

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The importance of civil society in modern democracies is immense. First, it promotes democratic participation. Citizens who may not directly engage in electoral politics often participate in civic groups, advocacy campaigns, or community organizations. These activities enhance political awareness and foster active citizenship.

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Second, civil society plays a crucial role in ensuring accountability and transparency. NGOs and watchdog organizations monitor government policies, expose corruption, and demand reforms. A free press, which is part of civil society, acts as a guardian of public interest. By questioning authority and highlighting injustices, civil society strengthens democratic governance.

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8 . Describe or explain the main features of Modern Political Theory.

Found in Dec 2020 (1), June 2022 (1), June 2023 (1), Dec 2023 (1)

Answer : Modern political theory emerged as a distinct phase in the history of political thought with the aim of making the study of politics more systematic, empirical, and scientific. Unlike classical political philosophy, which focused largely on normative questions such as justice, virtue, and the ideal state, modern political theory sought to develop political science as an objective and evidence-based discipline. The statement that “modern political theory attempted to build a Science of Politics” reflects this transformation from philosophical speculation to scientific inquiry.

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One of the most important features of modern political theory is its emphasis on empiricism. Modern theorists argued that political analysis should be based on observation, data collection, and systematic research rather than abstract moral reasoning.

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This approach gained momentum during the behavioral revolution of the twentieth century. Scholars like David Easton emphasized the need to study political systems using scientific methods. Behavioralism focused on observable political behavior such as voting patterns, public opinion, and political participation.

Another key feature is value-neutrality. Influenced by positivist philosophy and thinkers such as Max Weber, modern political scientists argued that political science should separate facts from values. Weber introduced the concept of *Wertfreiheit*, suggesting that researchers should avoid personal bias in their analysis. This marked a departure from classical thinkers like Plato and Aristotle, who openly discussed moral ideals.

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Modern political science is an interdisciplinary approach that draws from psychology, sociology, economics, and other fields to better understand political behavior. For example, political

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psychology studies how individual attitudes and perceptions influence political decisions.

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Another characteristic is the focus on systems analysis. David Easton's systems theory viewed politics as a system of inputs. This scientific framework helped explain how political systems function and maintain stability. Quantification and statistical analysis became central tools. Surveys, polls, and quantitative research methods were increasingly used to analyze political phenomena. This marked a shift from purely philosophical discourse to measurable analysis.

However, modern political theory did not entirely abandon normative concerns. In the later twentieth century, scholars such as John Rawls revived normative theory by combining moral reasoning with analytical clarity.

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In conclusion, modern political theory attempted to build a science of politics by emphasizing empiricism, objectivity, value-neutrality, and systematic research. While it transformed political studies into a scientific discipline, it also faced criticism for neglecting ethical and philosophical questions. Nevertheless, it remains a crucial phase in the evolution of political thought.

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9 . Explain the meaning and significance of Rights (including natural rights).

Found in June 2020 (2), June 2021 (10 a), Dec 2023 (3), Dec 2024 (3)

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Answer : The theory of natural rights is a foundational doctrine in political thought. It asserts that certain rights belong to individuals by virtue of being human and exist independently of government or legal systems. These rights are considered universal, inalienable, and inherent. The theory provides a moral basis for limiting state authority and protecting individual freedom.

The origins of natural rights can be traced back to ancient Stoic philosophy, which emphasized the existence of a universal moral law based on reason. During the medieval period, thinkers like Thomas Aquinas developed the idea of natural law, arguing that human laws must conform to divine and natural principles. However, the theory of natural rights reached its most influential form in the 17th century through John Locke. Locke argued that in the “state of nature,” individuals possess natural rights to life, liberty, and property. Governments are formed through a social contract to protect these rights. If a government fails to do so, people have the right to resist or overthrow it.

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Natural rights theory significantly influenced modern democratic movements. The United States Declaration of Independence proclaims that all men are endowed with “unalienable Rights,” including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Similarly, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen affirms natural and imprescriptible rights. These documents reflect the belief that rights are not granted by rulers but are inherent in human beings.

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The main characteristics of natural rights include universality (applicable to all humans regardless of nationality, race, or religion), inalienability (cannot be surrendered or taken away), and pre-political existence (they exist before the formation of the state). The theory emphasizes individual autonomy and limits government power. It forms the basis of modern human rights discourse and constitutional protections.

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Despite its influence, the theory has faced criticism. Utilitarian thinkers like Jeremy Bentham rejected natural rights as “nonsense upon stilts,” arguing that rights are created by law and depend on social utility.

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Critics also question how “natural” rights are determined and whether they truly exist independently of social recognition. Cultural relativists argue that rights vary across societies and cannot be universally defined.

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Nevertheless, the theory of natural rights remains central to contemporary political thought. Modern international human rights frameworks are based on the assumption that certain fundamental rights belong to all individuals simply because they are human. Although interpretations have evolved, the core idea of inherent human dignity continues to guide democratic governance and legal systems.

In conclusion, the theory of natural rights provides a strong moral foundation for individual freedom and limited government. Despite criticisms and debates, it remains a powerful and enduring principle in political philosophy and global human rights movements.

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10 . Define the concept of liberalism and discuss its characteristics.

Found in June 2021 (4), Dec 2022 (7), June 2024 (1), Dec 2024 (4)

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Answer : Liberalism is one of the most influential political ideologies in modern history. It is a philosophy that emphasizes individual liberty, human rights, equality, and limited government. The roots of liberalism go back to the European Enlightenment period (17th–18th centuries), when thinkers challenged absolute monarchies, feudal privileges, and the arbitrary exercise of power. Key figures in the development of liberal thought include John Locke, Montesquieu, and John Stuart Mill.

Definition of Liberalism :

The word “liberalism” comes from the Latin liber, meaning free. In a political sense, liberalism advocates that the individual should be free to develop their own potential without unnecessary interference from the state or society. It supports freedom of thought, expression, religion, and economic activity.

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Rawls provides a middle path between capitalism and socialism. He supports private property and markets but insists that inequalities must be arranged to benefit the weakest sections.

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Criticism

Communitarian thinkers argue that Rawls ignores the importance of community and tradition. Libertarians like Robert Nozick criticize Rawls for supporting redistribution of wealth, claiming it violates individual property rights.

Liberalism also emphasizes rationality, believing that humans are capable of reason and moral judgment, and therefore should enjoy the freedom to make choices in their personal and political lives.

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foundation of liberal thought.

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By the 19th century, liberalism also influenced economic ideas. Thinkers like Adam Smith emphasized free market principles and private property, connecting personal freedom with economic freedom.

Characteristics of Liberalism

1. Individualism

Liberalism places the individual at the center of political, social, and economic life. Society exists primarily to protect and promote individual freedom. Collective authority or the state is secondary and should not dominate personal choice.

2. Liberty

Freedom is the core value of liberalism. Civil liberties include freedom of speech, religion, press, and assembly. Political liberty ensures citizens can participate in governance through voting and representation.

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3. Equality Before Law

Liberalism insists on legal equality. No person, regardless of wealth, caste, or status, should enjoy privileges above the law. Equality ensures fairness in justice and governance.

4. Limited Government

Government power must be restricted and checked through constitutional provisions, separation of powers, and independent judiciary. This prevents tyranny and ensures accountability.

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5. Rule of Law

The state and citizens are governed by law, not arbitrary decisions. Laws protect individual rights and ensure justice.

6. Democracy

Modern liberalism supports representative democracy, where citizens elect leaders and participate in decision-making. Democracy ensures that the government remains accountable.

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