



2026

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Course No. : PS – 117

(Contemporary Political Theory)*Full Marks : 60**Time : 3 hours*

*The questions are of equal value
The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions*

Answer any five (5) questions

1. a) What is Political Theory? Contemporary political theory focuses on political behaviour rather than structures alone. Discuss. 2+10

Or

- b) Examine the issues of fact – value dichotomy in contemporary political theory. 12

2. a) Define the meaning of Ideology, Daniel Bell argued that the ideologies of the 19th and 20th centuries have been exhausted. Discuss. 12

Or

- b) What are the causes for the decline of political theory? 12

(Turn Over)

3. a) "Reason is not the problem: failing to grasp what it can and cannot do is a problem". Discuss Oakeshott's views on rationalism. 12

Or

- b) What is ideology according to Michael Oakeshott? Discuss Oakeshott's view on practical life and politics. 2+10

4. a) Karl Mannheim argues that human thought is socially conditioned, situated, and bound to a location. Discuss. 12

Or

- b) The ultimate goal of Mannheim's Sociology of Knowledge is to contribute to the development of social science that helps to overcome the ideological or utopian distortions in our thinking. Discuss. 12

5. a) Critically examine Rawls ideas of justice as fairness articulated in his two principles of justice. 12

Or

- b) Discuss the significance of the 'original position' in Rawls theory of Justice? 12

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