

**Political Science and International Relations
(Mains) Optional
Topic-wise Previous Years Questions, Paper-1**

PAPER 1 (A) - Political Theory: meaning and approaches

1. Political Theory: meaning and approaches

1. 'Political Science is a master-science, "architectonic" in its character, from which all other practical sciences take their cue' (Ernest Barker). Discuss. (1991)
2. Discuss the Normative and Behavioural Approaches to the study of political science and examine the limitations of Behavioural Approach. (1991)
3. Examine the limitations of Behaviouralism as an approach to the study of politics. (1992)
4. Estimate the utility of the systems theory in social sciences. (1993)
5. What is the nature of the crisis in political theory? Suggest remedies to overcome it. (1994)
6. Examine the fact-value dichotomy in political science. To what extent has post behaviouralism resolved the conflict in the dichotomy? (1995)
7. Examine the place of 'obligation' in political theory. (1995)
8. Discuss the basic assumptions of behaviouralism. In what way post behaviouralism differs from behavioural theory? (1996)
9. Discuss the importance of the Systems Theory in modern political analysis. (1997)
10. What is meant by "behavioural approach" to politics? Is it a fool-proof approach? How far is it correct to say that the behavioural approach to political analysis appeared in order to counteract the Marxist approach. (1998)
11. "A scientific politics can develop only if the materials of politics are treated in terms of systems of actions." In the light of this statement of Kaplan with regard to application of systems theory to political science, critically examine the drawbacks of its application. (1999)
12. Critically evaluate and bring out the weakest aspects of behavioural and post-behavioural approaches to the analysis of political system. What measurable and quantifiable criteria are available in political science to evaluate political behaviour? (1999)
13. "Post-behaviouralism is not a negation of the behavioural revolution but only, its corrective." How does it seek to raise the status of the discipline of Political Science? (2000)
14. Comment; Relevance of contextualist approach to the study of political theory. (2001)
15. Examine the arguments in 'the Normative vs. Empirical debate' in the study of political theory. (2002)
16. Explain the changing analytical perspectives in the development of political theory. (2008)



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