

**GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY  
GANDHINAGAR**

Course: Introduction to Political Science

Semester- I (Batch: 2020-25)

End Semester Online Examination: February 2021Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Duration: 8 hours

Max. Marks: 50

**Instructions:**

- The respective marks for each question are indicated in-line.
- Indicate correct question numbers in front of the answer.
- No questions or clarification can be sought during the exam period, answer as it is, giving reason, if any.

**Part A**

Marks

Answer the following (Max. 1000 words)

- Q.1 Is life fair? Is life just? Contemporary theories of social justice address such fundamental questions by setting forth certain principles and normative conditions that would ideally result in justice and fairness. However, David Miller in his book, *The Principles of Social Justice*, attempts to discover the underlying principles that people use when they determine that a situation is either just or unjust. Instead of proposing a normative theory of justice, Miller opens the way to a closer investigation of the social context in which the principles of justice are applied. (15)
- Your essay must address the following:
- a) Definition of justice
  - b) Miller's principle of social justice and your views to its applicability
  - c) Your opinion as to whether the three principles address the question of justice?.
- Q.2 Disagreement about the nature of politics as an academic discipline means, that it embraces a range of theoretical approaches and a variety of schools of analysis. Trace the origin of the word 'political', and discuss, how it has been understood/conceived through various traditions. (15)
- Furthermore, each of these conception has produced and shaped alternative definition of politics as summarized by Heywood. Do you agree with Heywood's definition?

**Part B**

Answer any Two the following (Max. 800 words)

- Q.3 What are the major similarities and differences among Hobbes's, Locke's, and Rousseau's conceptions of the state of nature and the social contract? Which (if any) of these three thinkers offer the most appealing social contract theory for modern politics? Why? (10)
- Q.4 The founding father of our Constitution envisaged an egalitarian society based on justice, equality, liberty and secularism, which forms the core component of the Constitutional ideology. The preamble not only declares our freedom but lays a strong foundation for a (10)

society based on equality, justice and liberty. Which perspective (discuss all possible perspectives) of the state is/are reflected in the adoption of the Indian constitution?

Q.5 Political liberalism tends to presuppose a negative definition of liberty. However, many scholars suggest that if liberty is just about the absence of interference or coercion then liberty will not be meaningful as there are many impediments to the enjoyment of liberty. Thus, positive conception of liberty recognise that freedom of choice without the necessary opportunity and capacities pleading for an increase role of the state. Discuss the statement by addressing the following: (10)

- a) Negative and positive liberty
- b) The impediments to liberty.
- c) Do you think positive liberty increases the role of the state leading to concentration of power or makes it more authoritarian impeding negative liberty?

\*\*\*\*\*