

**GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
GANDHINAGAR**

Course: **Political Theory**
Semester- II (Batch: 2019-24)

End Semester Online Examination: February 2021

Date: 12th 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.

Marks

Part A

Answer the following (Max. 1000 words)

- Q.1 In the essay *On Liberty*, John Stuart Mill argues that social and legal conditions which restrict the liberty of individual is one of the 'chief hindrances to human improvement'. Further, in *The Subjection of Women*, he sets forth, what has often been viewed as a progressive theory espousing equality for women in society and compares their position to that of slaves. The essay is regarded as one of the most fundamental texts to the formation of modern day feminism influencing the likes of Betty Friedan. Mill also argues that women liberty will add to the social benefit or fulfil the principle of utility. Discuss the statement while addressing the following : (15)
- a) Mill's defence for the need of liberty and its importance for human improvement.
 - b) The importance of equality to all women and its fulfilment of the principle of utility.
- According to you to what extent was J.S. Mill revolutionary in developing the notion of gender equality?
- Q.2 Texts and historiography are often sites of reproduction and contestation of power relations as other domains of social life are. Many of the hallowed texts were full with selective placement of evidence, displacement, contradictions, interpolations and heteronomy. It is thus important to reopen the question of interpreting text as well as the approaches to history. Ambedkar and Feminist scholars have engaged in such question to question power relations, discrimination and inequality in domains of social and political life. (15)
- How Ambedkar and Feminist scholars have addressed the question in term of social justice and gender equality, respectively? Discuss.

Part B

Answer the following (Max. 800 words)

- Q.3 John Rawls' is considered as one of the most important political philosopher of the 20th century. The principles of justice, according to Rawls, are principles which 'provide a way of assigning rights and duties in the basic institutions of society and it also defines the appropriate distribution of the benefits and burdens of social cooperation'. Explain the statement by addressing the procedure adopted by Rawls to arrive at the two principles of justice and the reason why and how justice should deal with the basic social structure. (10)
- Q.4 The question of the best government is at the heart of the political thinking. Several dialogues of Plato and Aristotle address the issue in depth. While Plato was hostile to democracy, Aristotle also termed democracy as the perverted form of government. However, the central question addressed by them was the problem of ethics through which human could achieve happiness (eudaimonia). Discuss the statement while addressing the following: (10)
- a) Importance of virtue in attaining the goal of an idealstate
 - b) Plato and Aristotle's view on democracy and the form of government proposed by them
 - c) Your reflection on democracy as a form of government.
