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STUDENT RESPONSE SHEET

B.A. First Year
Academic Session (1965-66)

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Paper No. 1
Lesson No. 1
Marks... 60...%

3rd November 1965

Total time taken for the study and preparation of this lesson 10 HOURS.....

When completed send this response sheet to:

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Give your address above

..... *Do not repeat the question* Fold back here with top facing out..... *convert it into a suitable heading*

Note: If the space on this sheet is insufficient, use additional sheets of the same size.

Q I

Define the term "Political Science" and discuss its Scope and Nature.

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Political Science like philosophy, Ethics, Economics and Psychology is a social science. It is that branch of human learning concerned with the state. The word "Politics" is derived from the Greek word 'Polis'. 'Polis' means a "city-state", for this was the form of organisation to which the Greeks applied the term. From this derivation of the word, it can be said that Political Science is a branch of systematised knowledge regarding the state. But what is a state in the context of Political Science? Man as a social animal cannot live in solitude. He has to live in a society but at the same time because of his individualistic desire, he shall in most cases want to have his own even if some time it means at the expense of annoying even harming his fellow members of the society. A society in such circumstances would be impossible. It follows therefore that there has to be some form of organisation and regulations. When a society is organised so that law and order can be maintained it becomes a political society. Such a society is given the term of State.

In their book, "Political Science - An Introduction" Professors J. Roland and David G. Smith of Swarthmore College.

Pennsylvania have this to say: "The State itself may be tentatively identified as the social organization having final authority over all persons residing within a specified territory, and having for its primary purpose the solution of common problems and provision of common goods, with the maintenance order as primary."

Among widely accepted definitions of the state is: "The state, as a concept of Political Science and Public Law, is a community of persons, more or less numerous, permanently occupying a definite portion of territory, independent of any so. of external control, and possessing an organized government to which the great body of inhabitants render habitual obedience. And as Professor ~~Loamer~~ has put it: "The phenomena of the state in all its varied aspects and relationships, as distinct from the family, the tribe, the nation, and from all private associations or groups, though not unconnected with them, constitute the subject of Political Science."

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There is some difference of opinion regarding the definition of political science. Some writers like Leacock and John Sealey contend that political science is the science of government while others like Gilchrist uphold that it is the science of both state and government. Whereas the former definition is insufficient, the latter one does not make any significant improvement to the accurate definition. To say that Political Science is confined to the study of government as propounded by Sealey and Leacock is to restrict the scope of the science. And as Professor Gilchrist definition, it is rather redundant. Since it is an acknowledged that there can be not

State without government. Yet for the sake of avoiding unnecessary arguments and debates, it can be granted that political science is the science of state and government. It is quite pertinent to conclude the question of definition of Political Science with some of the famous definitions. Here are a few of them:

The Swiss Scholar, Bluntschil states that: "Political Science is the science which is concerned with the state, which endeavours to understand and comprehend the state in its fundamental conditions, its essential nature, its various forms of manifestation and its development."

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POLITICAL SCIENCE - Paper I

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The noted French writer, Paul Janet defines Political Science "as that part of Social Science which treats of the foundations of the state and the principles of government". And professor Garner says that, "Political Science begins ~~with~~ and ends with the state".

SCOPE:

From the above explanations it is obvious that Political Science has a very wide scope. The subject studies the state "as it is", "as it has been" and as "it ought to be". In other words the subject matter of political science covers the comprehensive study and analysis of the past, present and future of the state. Contemporary states have undergone a long evolutionary process. And it is absolutely essential for political scientists to study the historical process which old states have passed in order to understand the nature of the present day states. Some political scientists prefer to call it as the historical study of the state.

The study of the state "as it is" includes not only an analytical study of contemporary states in their present forms but also how they operate. This includes such matters as constitution, government structure, laws and international relations.

Structure, laws and international relations. Best but not least Political Science deals with how best to utilise the knowledge gained out of studying the past and present of the state, to plan building a better future. Thus the study of the state as "it ought to be" includes the study of the ultimate objectives of the state. Hence a political scientist is concerned to evaluate the purposes and ends of the state. The study of political science includes the study of the political ideas as Political theory is interrelated with political organisation.

NATURE:

There are divergent views with regards to the nature of Political Sciences. The division is between those who contend, and rightly so, that Political Science is a science and those who negate this concept completely. Eminent writers like Aristotle, Hobbes, Bryce and Bodin are among those who advocate that Political Science is a science.

Those who ^{strongly} uphold that it is not a science include such great writers as Mill and Buckle. A noted American writer, Walter Dill Scott, who belongs to the group of those negating the right of political science being called a science, made the following remark in 1929: "Nobody takes Political Science seriously, for nobody is convinced that it is science or that it has any important bearing on Politics".

Those who contend that Political Science is not a science put forwards the following arguments to support their ~~argument~~ case:

Firstly, the conclusions arrived at by different political scientists on the subject vary whereas the laws or conclusions of natural sciences like Physics or Chemistry are exact.

Secondly, because Political Science deals with human behaviour and political institutions, it does not possess a character of permanency.

Lastly, there is no possibility of experiments on Political Science. There is definitely some truth in these arguments. Political Science, unlike the natural sciences lacks exactness. In Chemistry, for example, we know that no matter what happens, two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen will always yield water. There is no such exactness in Political Science when we deal with human behaviour and political institutions with all their concomitant complexities and inconsistencies. The human element is most significant in this respect.

Again, it is quite true to state that no controlled experimentation is possible in the study of Political Science. You cannot, for example, just arbitrarily victimise people ruthlessly in order to sense popular reaction in an attempt to prove a theory that, "where ~~as~~ there is repression there is bound to be resistance". But with all these arguments, it does not mean that Political Science is not a science at all. And in order to prove our point it is imperative that first we ask ourselves a simple but significant question. What is Science?

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POLITICAL SCIENCE
Paper I

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Dialectical theorists would have us believe that science is a body of systematised knowledge about a particular subject whose facts have been duly accumulated, analysed and classified. If this then, is the meaning of science, then political science cannot be denied its status of being a science.

Political scientists like other scientists have accumulated a lot of data about their subject. They have analysed the acquired information and after making comparative studies, have come out with certain conclusions which are in most cases proved to be valid under normal circumstances.

On the other hand although controlled experimentation is ruled out in Political science yet experiments are being made daily in different parts of the globe which enables political scientists to make some conclusions. Coup de tats, revolutions, uprisings are all in a sense experiments of Political science. For every new policy adopted by a government and its subsequent repercussions within and without the country, every new thinking contribute to the study of Political science.

For example, President Soekarno of Indonesia has been having his own experiment when he has been trying to run Indonesia by uniting forces of diametrically opposed ideas and aims through NASAKOM (a United front of Nationalists, Religious and Communist forces). The abortive 1st September coup with its subsequent repercussions are all the lessons of his experiment and there is no doubt that political scientists will have a lot to learn from this experiment.

P.P.O

Hence, Political Science, though is not an exact science is also a science and a very important one too.

① Please give a concluding paragraph by summarizing the whole idea.

② Write clearly. It is difficult to read what you write.

③ Do not write your address on every paper.

④ It is a good attempt.

Datta

of the state over individuals and groups. The State must exercise supremacy over all individuals and associations or groups of individuals within the area of its jurisdiction. Every one in the state must obey the laws of the state and only the government is competent to apply physical coercion. There must not be any rival or parallel authority. "If a state were unable to exercise successfully, or should refrain from exercising, jurisdiction over any considerable portion of its population, it would in all probability soon cease to be a state, through internal disintegration or conquest and absorption by another state," remarked Professor Garner.

There are certain concessions which a state may make with regards to its sovereignty. For instance, by an agreement with another state or by a collective agreement with several states, a state may waive its jurisdiction on certain persons residing in its territory (e.g. a diplomat, in personae universally accepted rules of international law, is ~~not~~ ~~not~~ exempted from jurisdiction by a state where he is accredited). But it is imperative to remember that such concessions are given with the full consent of a state.

It is therefore clear that in order to have a state four essential elements must be present. These are: (1) a group of human beings; (2) a territory upon which they permanently reside; (3) internal and external sovereignty; and (4) a political organization or agency through which the collective will of the population is expressed and enforced i.e. government.

A deletion of any of these fundamental characteristics will result in impossibility to constitute a state. For

these four essential attributes of the state go together every time to form it.

Good

SKAPOOM

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