Model Question Bank for Paper: WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT AND THEORY I CC10 (CBCS)

CO1: Understanding

1. What is Aristotle's concept of "the best regime" in his *Politics*, and how does it differ from Plato's vision in *The Republic*?
2. What is the role of virtue in Aristotle's political philosophy, and how does it relate to his concept of citizenship?
3. How does Plato's "philosopher-king" concept challenge traditional views of governance in his *Republic*?
4. Discuss the relationship between justice and the individual in Plato's political thought. How does this relationship shape his vision of the ideal state?
5. How did Cicero's concept of *natural law* influence Roman political theory and later Western political thought?
6. Explain the idea of *mixed government* in the Roman Republic. How does it balance monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy?
7. What is the Roman conception of *imperium*, and how does it relate to political power and governance?
8. How does Augustine's political theory in *City of God* reconcile Christian theology with Roman political order?
9. Discuss the idea of *justice* in Roman political thought, particularly in relation to the works of Cicero and Aristotle.
10. How does Thomas Aquinas integrate Christian theology with Aristotelian political thought in his theory of the state?
11. What is the role of divine right in the medieval conception of monarchy, particularly as seen in the works of medieval thinkers like St. Augustine?
12. Discuss the political implications of Augustine's *City of God* for the relationship between church and state.
13. What role does the concept of *subsidiarity* play in medieval political thought, especially in relation to the works of Aquinas?
14. How did medieval political thinkers address the issue of tyranny in relation to the monarchy and the church?
15. How does Machiavelli's *The Prince* redefine the role of morality in political leadership?
16. In what ways does Machiavelli contrast republicanism with monarchy in *Discourses on Livy*?
17. How does the humanist emphasis on individualism in the Renaissance influence political theory, particularly in the works of thinkers like Petrarch?
18. Explain the relationship between power and virtue in Machiavelli's political thought. How does this contrast with traditional republican ideals?
19. What is the role of the "virtù" concept in Machiavelli's *The Prince*, and how does it challenge traditional notions of ethical leadership?
20. What is Martin Luther's view on the relationship between church and state, and how does it impact the development of political theory in the Reformation period?
21. How does John Calvin's theory of *divine sovereignty* influence his views on governance and political authority?

22. What role does religious freedom play in the political thought of the Reformation, particularly in the writings of John Locke?
23. How did the Reformation influence the development of political theories about religious tolerance and the separation of church and state?
24. What is the political significance of the Protestant Reformation in terms of the shift from feudalism to early modern political structures?
25. What is the "social contract" theory, and how do Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau differ in their interpretations?
26. Explain the concept of natural rights as discussed by John Locke. How does it influence modern liberalism?
27. How does Thomas Hobbes describe the "state of nature"? What role does this idea play in his theory of absolute sovereignty?
28. What is Rousseau's notion of the "general will," and how does it differ from individual will in a democracy?
29. How does Machiavelli view the relationship between morality and politics in "The Prince"?

CO2: Critical Analysis

1. How does Hobbes' theory of the "state of nature" justify the necessity of an absolute sovereign in *Leviathan*?
2. Explain the role of fear and self-preservation in Hobbes' political theory. How does this shape his view on human nature and governance?
3. Critically assess Hobbes' argument for the social contract. How does he reconcile absolute power with the concept of individual rights?
4. What is Hobbes' view on civil disobedience, and how does this view align with his broader understanding of authority and order?
5. How does Hobbes differentiate between the state of nature and the state of civil society, and why does he argue that the latter requires absolute authority?
6. Explain Locke's concept of *natural rights* and how it serves as the foundation for his theory of government in *Two Treatises of Government*.
7. How does Locke's theory of the separation of powers in government influence modern liberal democracies?
8. What is the role of *consent of the governed* in Locke's theory of political legitimacy, and how does this differ from Hobbes' view?
9. How does Locke address the issue of property in his political theory, and what is its significance for modern liberal thought?
10. Critically analyze Locke's views on religious tolerance. How does this reflect his broader views on individual rights and government?
11. Explain Rousseau's concept of the "general will" and how it forms the basis of his political philosophy in *The Social Contract*.
12. How does Rousseau's idea of the "state of nature" differ from Hobbes and Locke, and what are its implications for the legitimacy of political authority?
13. What is Rousseau's critique of private property, and how does it relate to his vision of a just society?

14. Discuss Rousseau's idea of democracy in *The Social Contract*. How does his conception of democracy differ from modern representative democracy?
15. How does Rousseau reconcile individual freedom with collective sovereignty in his theory of the general will?
16. Critically evaluate Aristotle's idea of the best regime in "Politics." How does his theory of citizenship differ from modern democratic concepts?

CO3: Evaluation

1. What is the significance of *natural law* in Greek and Roman political thought, and how does it influence modern concepts of justice?
2. Explain the idea of *virtue* as central to Aristotle's notion of the good life and the role it plays in political theory.
3. What is the role of *rhetoric* in Roman political thought, and how does it affect the concept of public persuasion and democracy?
4. What role does *public service* play in the political systems of Ancient Greece and Rome?
5. How does Cicero's idea of the *republic* contrast with modern democratic ideals?
6. Explain the concept of *divine right* in medieval political thought, and how did it shape the monarchy in early modern Europe?
7. What is the medieval understanding of *law* as both divine and human, and how does it influence political governance?
8. Discuss the political importance of *reason* and *revelation* in medieval political theory. How does this shape the relationship between church and state?
9. How does Renaissance humanism impact the understanding of politics and governance?
10. What is Machiavelli's concept of *fortune* in *The Prince*, and how does it relate to the idea of political control and power?
11. Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau's Political Concepts:
12. What is the role of the *social contract* in Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau's political theories? How do they differ in their understanding of this concept?
13. Discuss Locke's concept of *property* and its significance for individual rights and political authority.
14. How does Rousseau's idea of the *general will* challenge individualism in liberal political thought?
15. What is the relationship between *liberty* and *authority* in Hobbes' and Rousseau's theories, and how do they balance these two concepts?
16. Evaluate Locke's views on *religious tolerance* and the separation of church and state. How does this shape modern liberal democratic thought?
17. How does the concept of "sovereignty" evolve in the works of Bodin and Hobbes?
18. Explain the notion of "citizenship" as outlined by Aristotle. How does it compare to contemporary views of citizenship?

CO4: Analyze

1. How would Aristotle's concept of the *best regime* apply to contemporary debates over democracy and authoritarianism?

2. What insights can be drawn from Roman republicanism to address issues of political corruption and civic virtue in modern democracies?
3. How might Plato's theory of the philosopher-king inform the debate on leadership in modern democratic states?
4. How does Cicero's concept of *natural law* apply to contemporary human rights discourse?
5. How could the Roman ideas of *civic duty* and *public service* be applied to modern political participation and accountability?
6. How would Aristotle's concept of the *best regime* apply to contemporary debates over democracy and authoritarianism?
7. What insights can be drawn from Roman republicanism to address issues of political corruption and civic virtue in modern democracies?
8. How might Plato's theory of the philosopher-king inform the debate on leadership in modern democratic states?
9. How does Cicero's concept of *natural law* apply to contemporary human rights discourse?
10. How could the Roman ideas of *civic duty* and *public service* be applied to modern political participation and accountability?
11. What lessons can be drawn from the medieval relationship between the church and state in addressing current debates over religious influence in politics?
12. How can Machiavelli's insights on power and leadership be applied to modern political leadership, particularly in times of crisis?
13. How do Renaissance humanism and its emphasis on individualism influence modern political theories of personal freedom and rights?
14. How can Thomas Aquinas' integration of religious and political authority inform debates on the role of religion in modern governance?
15. How does the Reformation's focus on religious tolerance and the role of the state provide insights into contemporary issues of secularism?
16. How can Hobbes' theory of the *state of nature* be applied to contemporary issues of social disorder and political violence?
17. What role does Locke's idea of *consent of the governed* play in contemporary debates about the legitimacy of political institutions?
18. How would Rousseau's concept of the *general will* apply to modern representative democracies and the challenge of reconciling popular sovereignty with individual rights?
19. How can Locke's theory of property inform current political debates on wealth inequality and land ownership?
20. What insights does Rousseau's critique of private property provide in addressing contemporary issues of wealth distribution and social justice?
21. What political strategies does Machiavelli recommend for leaders in times of crisis, and how can they be applied today?
22. Discuss the role of religion in politics, drawing on the views of thinkers like Locke, Rousseau, and Hobbes.

CO 5: Evaluation

1. Evaluate the concept of the "general will" in Rousseau's *The Social Contract*. How does it balance individual freedom with collective authority in modern democratic systems?
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Aristotle's idea of the "best regime" in relation to modern democratic principles.
3. Evaluate how Plato's vision of the ideal state in *The Republic* addresses or fails to address issues of individual liberty in modern political theory.
4. Evaluate the impact of Cicero's concept of *natural law* on the development of Western political thought. How does it compare to contemporary views on universal human rights?
5. Evaluate the political relevance of Augustine's *City of God* in today's secular world. Does it offer any insights into the relationship between religion and state?
6. Evaluate the influence of Thomas Aquinas' integration of divine law with human law on modern legal systems. Are his ideas still applicable today?
7. Evaluate the role of *subsidiarity* in medieval political thought and its relevance for contemporary debates on decentralized governance and local autonomy.
8. Evaluate the relevance of Machiavelli's ideas in *The Prince* for modern political leadership. How does his view of power contrast with democratic principles?
9. Evaluate Machiavelli's concept of *virtù* in relation to contemporary political leaders. What does it suggest about the nature of political leadership in times of crisis?
10. Evaluate Rousseau's critique of private property and its relevance to contemporary political debates on wealth redistribution and social justice.

CO 6: Creation

1. Create a hypothetical political system based on Plato's concept of the "philosopher-king." How would it function in today's world, and what challenges might it face?
2. Create a modern interpretation of the Roman *mixed government* model. How might this system work in today's political landscape?
3. Create a modern political framework based on the medieval conception of kingship and divine right. How would this differ from a democratic system?
4. Create a political theory based on Renaissance humanism. How would such a theory address contemporary issues like individual rights, state power, and civic engagement?
5. Create a modern political system based on Aristotle's idea of the *best regime*. How would you modify it to address contemporary challenges such as inequality and technological advancement?
6. Design a new educational curriculum for political leaders inspired by Plato's *Republic*. What elements would you emphasize to prepare leaders for governance in a democratic society today?
7. Create a political structure for a modern republic inspired by the Roman *mixed government* model. How would this system address current concerns such as political polarization and representation?
8. Develop a political theory based on Cicero's concept of *natural law*. How would this theory address global issues like human rights, environmental justice, and international law today?

9. Design a modern political theory that integrates Thomas Aquinas' views on divine and human law. How would this theory address the relationship between state law and individual moral freedom today?

10. Create a policy framework for the modern state inspired by medieval conceptions of kingship and divine right. How would this framework balance sovereignty with modern democratic principles?

11. Create a modern political leadership model inspired by Machiavelli's *The Prince*. How would you incorporate democratic principles while maintaining the strategic pragmatism Machiavelli advocates?

12. Develop a political system based on Renaissance humanism that prioritizes individual rights, civic duty, and education. How would you apply this system to a globalized world?

13. Create a political theory that combines John Calvin's idea of divine sovereignty with modern democratic principles. How would this system address the challenges of religious pluralism and secular governance?

14. Design a constitutional framework inspired by the Reformation's emphasis on religious freedom and the separation of church and state. How would this framework function in a multicultural, secular society?

15. Create a contemporary political system based on Hobbes' social contract and absolute sovereignty. How would this system address modern issues such as civil rights and global conflict?

16. Develop a political theory inspired by Hobbes' views on human nature and the role of fear in governance. How would this theory inform modern democratic practices in an age of terrorism and political instability?

17. Create a new social contract theory inspired by Locke's ideas on natural rights and consent of the governed. How would this theory address contemporary issues such as digital privacy and the global economy?

18. Design a political system based on Locke's vision of religious tolerance and individual liberty. How would such a system address the challenges posed by religious extremism and secularism today?

19. Based on Rousseau's concept of the *general will* how would you incorporate mechanisms for individual rights while maintaining collective sovereignty in a diverse, pluralistic society?

20. Design a political theory that synthesizes Rousseau's critique of private property with contemporary theories of wealth distribution and social justice. How would this theory reshape the modern welfare state?