**Degree Part-I (Hons. Course)**

**Paper-1**

**Basic Principles of Political Theory**

1. **Nature, Scope and significance of Political Theory**
2. **Nature and Elements of State**
3. **Functions of State :Liberalism, Socialism and Welfare State**
4. **Sovereignty: Monism(Austin),Pluralism (Laski & MacIver) ,Contemporary views**
5. **Concept of Power, Authority and Legitimacy**
6. **Law,Liberty,Equality &Justice**
7. **Democracy:Meaning,Merits &Demerits, Conditions for the successful working of Democracy and Problems of Democracy**
8. **Nature &role of Political Parties**
9. **Nature of Pressure Groups and their role**
10. **Social Change:Meaning,Nature &theories of social change**

**READINGS**

1. Sir E Barker :Principles of social and political Theory
2. G.Catlin : A Study of the Principles of Politics
3. R.Dahl : Modern Political Analysis
4. D.Easton :The Political System :An Inquiry into the state of Political Science
5. H.J.Laski :A Grammar of Politics
6. R.M.MacIver :The Modern State
7. S.Ramaswamy :Political Theory: Ideas and Concepts

(**Note-Dear student,** this reading material is prepared with an intention to evoke more questions and it’s my suggestion that you try to supplement your study with the textbook/reference book, whichever is readily available to you. You have to keep your mind open to stress more on the portion relevant with reference to your examination.)

**1. Nature, Scope and significance of political Theory**

**2. Nature and Elements of State**

It is true that Political Science mainly concerns with the state and Government and its interplay. Ever since the Greeks started political speculation, the State has been the centre of political study. We very often use the term “state”, in our political discussion and propaganda. We talk of the welfare state, the police state, the Liberal state or even the Totalitarian state. We praise or criticize the state action. The Liberals criticize the state restrictions on the individual’s freedom; the socialist praise the achievements of the welfare state and want state interference with a view to control the activities of monopolists. Question naturally arises in our mind as to what is state.

Before we discuss the nature of the State, let us take up the elements of the state. State consists of four essential elements: Population, territory, government and sovereignty and together they constitute state. We would discuss each of these elements individually in order to understand their significance vis-à-vis. Modern state.

**Population**

Without people no social institution can come into being. Human beings form part of a social institution whether it is a club, or a church, or a trade union or the state. State is a peculiar type of a social institution in that it is all inclusive. ***Full members of a state are called citizens*** i.e. they enjoy the benefits of the State and are given protection by the State. Without people we cannot conceive of the state. However there is no uniform principle concerning the population of a State. Some states like India and China are big states because their population is large. Some states, like East Timor and Belgium, are small because their population is small. It is true that Population per se is an essential component of a state but that has not stopped speculation in political science as to what population is sufficient to form a state. The Greek Philosopher, Plato, in his book, Laws said that the ideal population of the city state should be 5040.Aristotle, the other Greek philosopher, in those days, almost 2500 years back held that the State should be large enough to be self sufficient and small enough to be well governed. It resonates with the modern society and its concern for ‘population explosion’ as it is increasingly become a challenge to sustain and maintain the population. In this reference it is good to look at what Rousseau has to say. Rousseau, a French political thinker in 16-17th century called for a ‘suitable relation between the territory and population’. He prescribed the ideal population of a state at 10,000.

**Territory**

Without territory we cannot have a conception of state as the populations needs space to fix themselves. A nomadic tribe cannot be called a State, because it does not live in a definite territory. The Ancient Aryans could not find a State as they had been wandering tribes. A Territory, in common parlance, includes not only Land, but sub soil rights, air space and part of sea. It is not necessary that the territory of a state should be contiguous. Modern states are territorial. The authority of the state extends over its territorial jurisdiction. The borders of the State limit its territorial jurisdiction. This means that no two states can have jurisdiction over the same territory. If they claim such a jurisdiction such an action leads to border disputes.

**Government**

Government is the legal instrument through which the will of the State is expressed. Government is concrete and the State is abstract. Government consists of men who exercise the lawful authority, i.e.the rules and regulations of the state. However its government in some form or other form required to constitute the state. Forms of Government may vary from. For e.g. Saudi Arab has a monarchy, America has a federal or Britain has a unitary form of Government. Hobbes argued that no civilized life is possible without government. Absence of government leads to anarchy.Gvernment functions to keep our life as a citizen going in a state smoothly; hence the maintenance of law and order is the top most priority for a government.

**Sovereignty**

It is the most important attribute of a state without which a state can never be constituted. Sovereignty is the highest power/command of a state unparallel to any other institution in a state. It distinguishes the State from other associations and institutions in society. Before 1947, India possessed the three elements of the state, viz. population, territory and government but lacked sovereign power, which was with the Britishers.Only after gaining Independence we became a sovereign nation who can decide the destiny in their own way.

Sovereignty has two aspects, internal and external. Internal sovereignty is the power of the State to compel obedience to its will within its territorial jurisdiction. External sovereignty means that the state has full control over her external affairs and does not recognize any outside authority as its superior. In other words, the State is regarded as equal to other states in international relations. We will have occasion to discuss this concept in detail and how its character has changed in post-industrial worlds where increasingly borders are becoming irrelevant.

**Note**: Go through the ppt submitted along with this to have the better grasp of the concept of “STATE”.Tommorrow we’ll discuss the nature of the state. After reading it the question that you need to answer yourself as to “**Is State good or evil”?** It’s homework for you to come out with the range of answers.