

Introduction To Political Science

Political Science can be traced back to Ancient Greece, in the time of Plato and Aristotle. Aristotle was the first person to present a theory of state. The term "Polis" was used in Ancient Greece for describing a "city state" i.e. a small state. He used the name "Politics" for designating his discussion of the "Polis".

For understanding the meaning and scope of Political Science we must study both traditional and modern conceptions of Political Science.

Traditional View: Garner states, "Political Science begins and ends with state." Thus Politics means concern with the current problems and issues faced by the government as well as the policies and laws of the government which were made to tackle them. Political Science seeks to study and explain the theory of the fundamental principles, origin, nature, scope and powers of state and government.

Modern view: Catlin states "Politics is the study of of political aspects of organized human society" Politics is the struggle for power and influence"

Political Science has been developing in tune with the changes in social, economic and political environment. Political Science includes five major dimensions.. 1. Political Theory 2. Comparative Politics 3. International Politics 4. Public Administration 5. Political Economy.

Nature of Political Science: Several scholars like August Comte, Buckle have traditionally held the view that politics though often called Political Science is not a Science, because they lack agreed principles, exactness, prediction making not possible and experiments are not possible in Politics.

Against the traditional view the modern view holds that it is a Science because it uses scientific method of study, validity of conclusions of Political Science, increasing ability to make predictions. Thus on the basis of all these arguments, most of the modern political scientists strongly uphold the view that Politics is a Science.

However, it must be stated that Political Science is a social science and not a natural science. It seeks to study the political aspect of human behavior or the political dimension of every social system.

Short questions:

1. Define the following: a) Traditional meaning of Political Science
b) Modern meaning of Political Science
2. What is the difference between Theoretical Politics and Applied Politics?
3. What is comparative politics?
4. Define Political Economy.

5.What is Administrative Theory?

Long questions:

1.Define Political Science.Discuss the traditional view of the points of difference between Politics and Political Science.

2.What is the first and foremost dimensions of Political Science?Discuss its scope.

3.What do you understand by International Relations?

4.Give arguments for and against the view that Political Science is a Science.