

POLITICAL SCIENCE-II
PAPER CODE-104
SEMESTER-II

UNIT I

- a) Concept of state and its elements:- This section would focus upon state and its relevance in a given society. The four elements of state namely population, territory, sovereignty and government would be discussed in detail. The debate over sovereignty losing its relevance in the wake of globalization and liberalization would also be highlighted.
- b) Government and its relation with state:- Different aspects of this relationship would be highlighted upon various bases like permanence, nature, form, membership and others.
- c) Constitution:- features and classification. The features of a Constitutional government like procedural stability, transparency, accountability, rule of law would be discussed in this section. It would also differentiate between different types of constitutions like enacted, evolved, written, unwritten, rigid, flexible.
- d) Legislature:- Concept, types and functions. This section would discuss the functions of the legislative including law-making, controlling the executive, guiding policy-making, appointments and removal of top functionaries, control over national income and expenditure and other miscellaneous functions. The distinction between unicameral and bicameral legislatures would also be brought out.
- e) Executive:- Concept and functions. Different types of executives (Real, nominal, hereditary, elective, singular, plural). Various functions of the executive like policy-making, implementation and evaluation, exercise of coercive power, maintenance of law and order, defence and security, ensuring the welfare and development of the nation and others would be elaborated upon.
- f) Judiciary:- The functions of the judiciary include adjudication, interpretation of laws, upholding the constitutional provisions, safeguarding the rights and liberties of the people.
Judicial review refers to the power of the judiciary to review and determine the validity of a law or order. It thus performs two prime functions:
 - i) Legitimizing government action and;
 - ii) To protect the constitution against any undue encroachment by the government. The manner in which this power has been exercised by Indian judiciary would also be examined.
The manner in which independence of judiciary from political interference can be secured includes measures like modes of appointment, safety of tenure, removal through impeachment and others.
- g) Separation of Powers:- The necessity for separation of power among various organs of the state due to increase in size and population of the modern states

and also because of the wider role that the state is required to play would be outlined. The theory of separation of power would be discussed with special reference to Montesquieu's contribution. A critical analysis would be made of the system of checks and balance for efficient functioning of all the three organs of the government.

UNIT-2: UNITARY AND FEDERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

- a) Unitary form of Government:- Along with the definition by Garner, features like single citizenship, strong and efficient administration, prompt decision making, flexible constitution, suitability for smaller countries would be discussed. The British system would serve as an illustration. Demerits like strong bureaucracy, apprehension of central government becoming despotic, over-burdened executive, lack of local autonomy, lack of opportunities for political education would be highlighted.
- b) Federal form of Government:- The definition by Garner and features like written and rigid constitution, division of powers, independent judiciary, bicameralism, dual set of government, wider scope for regional development would be discussed. The United States of America would be taken as an illustration. The demerits of the Federal form of government would include lack of administrative uniformity, acute provincial tendencies, division of power, rigid constitution, lack of unanimity and cooperation, difficulty in fixing responsibility.
- c) Co-federal Government:- The features of a confederation like creation through an international treaty, freedom to join or leave, flexibility and autonomy, lack of central administrative and judicial organs would be discussed.
- d) Quasi-federal government:- The features of a Quasi-federal system (like that of India) like unitary tendencies in emergency situations and residual powers to the centre would be discussed.

UNIT-3: PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

- a) Parliamentary form:- After defining the features like nominal head of the state, majority rule, collective responsibility, political homogeneity and other would be discussed. Demerits like dictatorship of the cabinet, violation of principle of separation of powers, burdened executive, ruthless party politics would also be discussed.
- b) Nominal and Real head:- The distinction between the two would be brought out with illustrations from India, USA and UK.
The role of the cabinet and Council of Ministers would also be discussed. The decline in the role of legislature in the wake of strong executive would also be highlighted.

- c) Presidential form:- definition and features like absence of collective responsibility, executive not being a member of the legislature, fixed tenure of executive, and others would be discussed. Demerits like wide powers of the President, non-cooperation between the executive and the legislature and rigidity of the constitution would also be discussed.
- d) One party democracy:- the rigidity of ideological goals is a one party system and its merits and demerits would be discussed.
- e) Military Rule:- Finer and Blondel's views would be discussed. Various types of military rule like direct and indirect, transitional or long term and various features and weaknesses of Military rule would also be discussed.

UNIT-4: SOVEREIGNTY, RIGHTS AND DUTIES:

- a) Sovereignty:- definition and the concepts of political, popular and legal sovereignty. Theories of sovereignty would be briefly mentioned.
- b) Rights:- concept of rights as legally recognised claims would be discussed alongwith different types of rights like civil and political.
- c) The concept of fundamental rights with special reference to those enumerated in the Indian Constitution would be discussed.
- d) The concept of duties as responsible citizens of a political system would be discussed.

BOOKS:

1. Comparative Politics: J.C. Johri
2. Politics: Andrew Heywood