

Political Science

Code No. 317

Introduction

Political Science is the study of man in the process of government himself/herself. Political Science comprises theory of the state, concept of sovereign powers, form and functions of government, making and execution of laws, election, political parties, rights and duties of citizens, functions of forces, administration and study of welfare activities of state and government. In broader terms it provides the study of the role of individual in relation to the entire society ranging from small unit of family to the whole world.

The curriculum of Political Science for Senior Secondary course developed by NIOS seeks to provide an understanding and knowledge of Constitution of India, various organisations, political and non-political setups and their operations at the village, district, state, national and global level.

Rationale

Study of human society is not as simple as is generally believed. Society is a complex network of social relations. The individuals entering these relationships are in perpetual change. Therefore, every society searches for an order and also mechanisms to cope with these changes. Emergence of the state or political order is a part of this complex process. The concerns of political order and the way it carries those functions and the problems that it faces are of universal concern. The concerns of political order have further increased with the new role viz. changing the large socio-economic order so as to improve the living conditions. Political Science deals with this vital domain of the society, keeping in mind the changed scenario.

The subject of Political Science seeks to enable the students to gain critical awareness about the political institutions which govern their lives. These institutions are created to maintain peace, order and co-operation, which would otherwise be threatened by conflicts over socio-ethnic identities or religious beliefs, etc. This course seeks to impart knowledge about political institutions which operate at the village, city, district, national and global levels. Thus, segments of the course deal with nation-state, Panchayati raj, district administration, central and state governments as well as United Nations and World Order. It also deals with problems, issues, concerns and political processes that arise in the working of the system. The Political Science syllabus deals not only with political institutions but also with the political ideas. Those ideas deal with the nature, needs, competence, pertaining to justice, liberty, equality, rights, and obligations etc. of the people. They also deal with the requirements, responsibilities and limits of political authority. Thus, the study of Political Science is concerned with the role and responsibilities of governmental agencies at various levels. Political Science focuses on the study of the state, nation, society, government etc.

In this course the primary focus is to strengthen the intellectual capabilities of the students not only to appreciate the theoretical concerns but their application in the concrete context. For this purpose, Indian Political system and its unfolding experience is incorporated in this syllabus. The subject-matter primarily deals with four important aspects:

- i. the theoretical framework;
- ii. the Indian constitutional framework with a focus on the institutions and organs of the government;
- iii. the processes and practices flowing from the constitution in action; and
- iv. our relationship with the world outside.

Objectives

After completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- develop an interest in the theory and principles of Political Science;
- outline the institutions and organs through which the power is structured and exercised;
- gain an insight into various political processes and practices;
- construct the democratic values and philosophy of the Indian Constitution;
- illustrate national and global concerns so as to become responsible citizens and agents of democratic governance; and
- explain attitudes and values necessary for healthy civic and political life.

Scope and job opportunity

After completing a course in Political Science, several opportunities are available in both government and private sectors. Professional in politics, public administration, law, and marketing fields are always needed. One can opt for campaign management, polling and electoral politics. The career prospects in political science have widened in the voluntary organization sectors, such as NGOs. The international voluntary organizations, like UNO, have huge scope for proficient political science students across the world. Besides, they can go for higher studies in this field and after that they can join media houses as political journalists and political researchers/analysts. What's more, they can become members of Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies, or serve various political parties as party president, party member, or activist.

Eligibility conditions

Age: 15 Years

Qualification: 10th pass

Medium of instruction: Hindi, English, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati and Odia

Duration of the course: 1 Year

Weightage

Theory: 100 Marks

Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA): 20% marks of theory

Scheme of studies: Theory (240 hrs), TMA (self paced)

Scheme of evaluation: Theory paper 100 marks (3hours), internal assessment (TMA) - (20% of theory marks)

Pass criteria: 33% marks in theory

Course content

S. No.	Module/Topics	Duration (in hours)	Module Approach/Description	Weightage (marks)
1.	<p>Module-I Individual and the State</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meaning and Scope of Political Science 2. Nation, State 3. Distinction between Society, Nation, State and Government 4. Major Political Theories 	30	This module aims at acquainting the learners with the concept and their meaning such as politics and political science. It seeks to familiarize the learners with various concepts related to citizen, nation, state and government. This module also emphasizes upon the major political theories so that an understanding could be developed among learners about Liberalism, Marxism and Gandhism.	14
2.	<p>Module-II Aspects of the Constitution of India</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Preamble and the Salient Features of the Constitution of India 6. Fundamental Rights 7. Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties 8. Indian Federal System 9. Emergency Provisions 	35	This module aims at giving an understanding of the ideals and principles that have been incorporated in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. It has also been designed to develop among learners an insight into the Fundamental Rights and Duties enshrined in the Constitution. It highlights the importance of Fundamental Duties in a citizens' life. Learners are expected to understand the directions and instructions given in the Constitution to the governments, whether Union or States, to follow while framing policies and programmes. These constitutional directions are aimed at establishing a welfare State in India. Further, the module explains how various	15

			features of federalism are incorporated in the centre state relationship. Besides, through this module learners are given an understanding of the emergency provisions to meet any national crisis situation.	
3.	Module-III Structure of Government 10. Union Executive 11. Parliament of India 12. Supreme Court of India 13. The Executives in the States 14. The State Legislature 15. High Courts and Subordinate Courts 16. Local Government: Urban and Rural	50	The purpose of this module is to acquaint the learner with the three organs of government at the Union and State levels in India and their functionaries. The module also deals with structure and functions of Panchayati Raj System and Urban Local Government.	17
4.	Module-IV Democracy at Work 17. Universal Adult Franchise and the Methods of Representation 18. Electoral System in India 19. National Political Parties 20. Regionalism and Regional Parties 21. Public Opinion and Pressure Groups	35	This module has been designed to bring awareness about the functioning of democracy in India. It seeks to impart information about the electoral system in the country. It also highlights the importance of universal adult franchise and the role of political parties both at the national and the regional level in making the Indian democracy a success. It throws light on the importance and role of Election Commission in conducting free and fair elections in the country.	12
5.	Module-V Major Contemporary	35	This module provides the learners an opportunity to reflect on various	15

	Issues 22. Communalism, Caste and Reservation 23. Environmental Awareness 24. Good Governance 25. Human Rights		emerging national and global concerns. Under the module the concerns and issues that are included are communalism, caste and reservation, environmental awareness, good governance and human rights.	
6.	Module-VI India and the World 26. India's Foreign Policy 27. India's Relations with USA, Russia 28. India and its Neighbours- China, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka	25	This module has been designed to make the learners aware of India's foreign policy and its increasing role in World politics. This module explains the objectives and principles of India's foreign policy. It also explains India's role in the United Nations and its commitment to world peace through this international forum i.e. United Nation. This module also analyses India's relations with two major powers viz. U.S.A. and Russia and also with three of her neighbours i.e. China, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.	12
7.	Module-VII A* World order and the United Nations 29. Contemporary World Order 30. The United Nation 31. United Nations Peace Activities 32. United Nations and Economic and Social Development	30	This module has been designed to enable the learners to understand the post cold war contemporary world order. The learners will also be introduced to the role and working of the United Nations and its principal organs. It also explains the peace activities of the United Nations. This module also highlights significance of major United Nations agencies as instruments of socio-economic development.	15
7.	Module-VII B* Administrative System in India 29. Public Service		This module provides an understanding of the administrative system in India by focusing firstly on the founding or Public Service	

	<p>Commission</p> <p>30. Administrative Machinery at the Centre, State and District Levels</p> <p>31. Political Executives and Bureaucracy</p> <p>32. Public Grievances and Redressal Machinery</p>		<p>Commission's at the Union and State levels and secondly analysing the administrative machinery at the centre, state and district levels. The module also deals with the role of bureaucracy, its relationship with the political executive and mechanism for redressal of public grievances.</p>	
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***Note: Learner has to choose one Module from VII A or VII B**