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4 SEM TDC DSCH (CBCS) C 8

2024

(May/June)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Core)

Paper : C-8

**(Political Process and Institutions in
Comparative Perspective)**

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Choose the correct option/Answer the following : 1×8=8

(a) Which approach of comparative politics primarily studies the impact of institutions on political behavior and outcomes?

(i) Behavioralism

(ii) Marxism

(iii) New Institutionalism

(iv) Rational Choice Theory

(b) Name one advocator of New Institutionalism.

(2)

- (c) How do coalition governments usually form?
- (i) By holding a national referendum
 - (ii) Through negotiations between multiple political parties
 - (iii) By appointing an interim government
 - (iv) By direct appointment of the head of State
- (d) What is a common challenge faced by coalition governments in terms of policy implementation?
- (i) Lack of public support
 - (ii) Internal conflicts among coalition partners
 - (iii) Excessive executive power
 - (iv) Inadequate financial resources
- (e) What is the primary defining characteristic of a nation-state?
- (f) What is the distinction between the terms 'nation' and 'state' in political discourse?
- (g) Mention one major obstacle to democratization in the contemporary era.
- (h) What is the significance of electoral systems in shaping democratization outcomes?
- (i) They ensure strong executive leadership

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(Continued)

(3)

- (ii) They promote political stability
 - (iii) They influence the representation of diverse interests
 - (iv) They limit citizen participation
2. Write short notes on the following : $4 \times 4 = 16$
- (a) Criticisms of new institutionalism as an approach to studying comparative politics
 - (b) Principles of mixed representation electoral systems
 - (c) Impact of globalization on the sovereignty and identity of nation-states
 - (d) Role of civil society and media in promoting democratization processes in contemporary post-colonial societies
3. Define new institutionalism and elucidate its significance in understanding comparative politics. $3+9=12$
- Or
- Define political culture and explain its significance in comparative political analysis. $3+9=12$
4. Compare and contrast the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) and the proportional representation systems with special highlight on the advantages and disadvantages of each system. 11

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(Turn Over)

Or

Discuss the significance of coalition politics in parliamentary democracies. How do electoral systems influence the formation and stability of coalition governments? 7+4=11

5. Compare and contrast the historical evolution of the nation-state in Western Europe with its development in post-colonial contexts. 11

Or

Discuss the changing nature of nation-states in the context of globalization. 11

6. Compare and contrast the processes of democratization in post-colonial and post-communist countries. What are the common challenges and factors driving democratization in these contexts? 7+4=11

Or

Discuss the role of elections, political parties and electoral systems in advancing democratization efforts in post-authoritarian contexts. 11

7. Compare and contrast the concepts of federation and confederation in both historical and contemporary contexts. 11

Or

Make an attempt to address the contemporary debates on federalism and your take on these debates. 7+4=11
