

The State and political science SS1-9

What is state?

- A group of people residing permanently within a particular territory with a sovereign government is called state.
- The protection of the life and property of the people, implementation of public welfare activities, and to effectively interfere in crucial situations can only be done by the state.
- The state is the most important among the socio-political institutions that human beings have formed.

Who first coined the term 'State'?

- The term 'State' was first coined Nicholo Machiavelli, the western philosopher.

Basic factors of a state

- Population,
- Territory,
- Government,
- Sovereignty.

They are the essential components of a nation.

Describe the characteristics of the people that are essential to the state.

- Population is an indispensable factor in the formation of a state.
- For the existence of a state, the people should live unitedly, with mutual understanding, inter dependence and common public interest.
- There is no state without people.
- However, the minimum and the maximum number of people for a country are not fixed.
- Population which is too much or too less is not good for a state.
- These two aspects will adversely affect the development of a state.

Evaluate how high population or low population affect a state.

- If the population is small, the inadequate utilization of natural resources can adversely affect the growth of the nation.
- States like Canada with less population encourages migration..
- Scarcity of human resource is the reason for this.
- At the same time high population leads to unemployment and poverty.

What are the features of the land that is the most essential part of the nation?

- A state should have an exact territory with clearcut boundary.
- The state is formed when the people settle permanently in a particular territory.
- The state should have complete control over its territory.
- The land area, water bodies, coastal area, aerial space etc. within the boundaries are part of the territory.
- The territorial size does not matter in the formation of a state.

What is the importance of government as the most important factor for a given state (What are the key roles of government?)?

- Government makes and executes law and ensures justice to the people.
- Government ensures security and makes available different services to the people.
- Maintain law and order.
- Increase employment opportunities.
- Implement developmental projects.
- Implement social welfare projects.
- Disputes are settled.
- The government does all the work for the state.
- Different states have different forms of government.

- Monarchy, despotic rule, democracy etc.
- Whatever be the form the state should have a government.
- The government may change from time to time but the state remains permanent.

Specify the importance of the sovereignty of a State.

- Sovereignty is the most important factor in the formation of the country.
- Sovereignty makes a state different from other Institutions.
- State has the right to take decisions on national and international affairs independently without any external control.
- This supreme authority of a state is called Sovereignty.
- Sovereignty is the absolute, unlimited and indivisible power of the state
- It has two dimensions.

Specify the internal and external dimensions of a state's sovereignty.

Internal dimensions of a state's sovereignty:

- The right to take decisions on all matters which come within its territory.

External dimensions of a state's sovereignty:

- The right to take independent decisions on international issues.

“The goal of State is the maximum happiness of the maximum number” Who says this?

- Jermey Bentham.

Functions of a State

- Welfare of the people is the function of all states.
- Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle considered the primary duty of a state is to provide better life to its citizens.
- Along with the emergence of the concept of 'welfare state', functions have also increased accordingly.

How is the functions of the country classified?

- Obligatory functions
- Discretionary functions

Critically analyze and discuss the obligatory and discretionary functions of state.

Obligatory functions

- Functions which have to be implemented by the state at all times at any cost are said to be obligatory functions.
- State cannot abstain from its obligatory functions.
- The life and property of the people cannot be protected if the obligatory functions are not performed.
- Protection of boundary, Maintain internal peace, Protection of rights, Implementation of justice are the main obligatory functions of the state

Discretionary functions

- Discretionary functions are those which have to be implemented as per the economic condition of the state.
- Implementation of functions like education, health care etc. will provide better living conditions for the people.
- The state which implements such progressive measures is called a welfare state.
- It is not possible to set a limit to the discretionary powers of a state.
- The growth of technology and the increase in human wants are making this area vast.

Theories on the origin of state?

- Divine Right Theory,
- Evolutionary Theory(most acceptable),
- Social Contract Theory,
- Power Theory.

Divine Right Theory

- State is the creation of God.
- King is the representative of God.
- King is answerable only to God.

Evolutionary theory

- State is the product of history.
- It was formed by social evolution.
- The most acceptable is the theory of evolution of state .
- This theory tells us that state was formed as a result of several social circumstances and it reached its present form through the process of evolution.
- State started as tribe and tribal administration and later developed as city state, empire state and feudal state.
- Today states are commonly known as Nation States.
- Because they are formed on the basis of a feeling of nationalism.

Social contract theory

- State came into existence as a result of a contract by the people.
- State was constituted for the fulfilment of human needs.

Power theory

- State came into existence as a result of the establishment of power by the strong over the weak.

What is Citizenship - according to Aristotle

A person who has the right to participate in the law making procedure and the implementation of law is called the citizen of that state.

What is Citizenship ?

- Citizenship is the full and equal membership in a nation.

What are the characteristics of citizenship?

- Citizenship enables a person to experience political and civil rights.
- It is clear that while state ensures certain rights, citizens have certain duties to perform.

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- It is clear that while state ensures certain rights, citizens have certain duties to perform.
- The concept of citizenship gained importance when democracy came into existence.
- In the execution of administration, democracy ensures the participation of the citizens through political rights.
- Only the citizens can enjoy the political rights of a nation.

Explain about the two types of citizenship.

Natural citizenship

- Citizenship by birth is natural citizenship.

Acquired citizenship

- When a person acquires citizenship on the basis of the legal procedure of a nation is known as acquired citizenship.

Which are the rights available in India exclusively to its citizen

- Right to contest election
- Right to form political party.
- Right to propagate politics.
- Right to vote in the elections.
- Right to criticize government.

Who is known as the Father of Political Science.

- Aristotle

What is Political Science according to Aristotle

- “Political Science is the study of state and Government”.
- According to the definition of Aristotle political science is the study of institutions like state and Government.
- Aristotle gave the name 'Politics' to his book dealing with political issues.
- This is the first book which makes a comprehensive analysis of state.
- So he is known as the Father of Political Science.

List out the important people who contributed to the science of politics?

- Aristotle, Socrates, Plato

“The result of your political inactivity is the you will be rule by people inferior to you”. Who says this?

Plato

Which are the different branches of study of Political Science?

- Political theories,
- Public administration,
- International politics
- Comparative politics.

Why study political science?

- To promote civic awareness among the people,
- To intervene effectively in social and political issues,
- To shape a better political system,
- To work for the protection of rights,
- To encourage the citizen to fulfill the duties to the nation.

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