

Ideas and Institutions in Indian Political Thought

Political Science (Honours)

Questions

Question 1. Kautilya's Theory of Statecraft

- (a) Explain Kautilya's *Saptanga* theory of the state. How does it compare to modern conceptions of statehood? (10 marks)
- (b) Critically analyze Kautilya's justification for *Danda* (punishment) in governance. Is his approach amoral or pragmatic? (15 marks)

Question 2. Dharma, Danda and Dhamma

- (a) Distinguish between *Dharma* in Hindu political thought and *Dhamma* as propagated by Ashoka. (10 marks)
- (b) How did Ashoka's *Dhamma* redefine the relationship between ruler and subjects? (15 marks)

Question 3. Vedic Political Institutions

- (a) Compare the roles of *Sabha* and *Samiti* in the Vedic period. (10 marks)
- (b) To what extent can they be considered precursors to modern democratic institutions? (15 marks)

Question 4. Caste and Political Thought

- (a) Differentiate between *Varna* and *Jati* systems. (10 marks)
- (b) Analyze how the reservation policy has transformed caste into a political identity in contemporary India. (15 marks)

Question 5. Comparative Political Concepts

- (a) Contrast the ancient Indian concepts of *Rashtra* and *Rajya* with the Western idea of nation-state. (10 marks)
- (b) Examine how *Nyaya* (justice) and *Niti* (policy) complemented each other in classical Indian political philosophy. (15 marks)