

## Answer Key- IHS 2023- Quiz 2- PolSc Module

### 1. “Politics is, in essence, power.” Discuss this notion with reference to *three faces of power*.

Definition of Politics as Power	2.5
• Power as Decision Making	2.5
• Power as Agenda Setting	2.5
• Power as Thought Control	2.5

**Definition of Politics as Power-** At its broadest, politics concerns the production, distribution and use of resources in the course of social existence. Politics is, in essence, power: the ability to achieve a desired outcome, through whatever means. This notion was neatly summed up in the title of Harold Lasswell’s book *Politics: Who Gets What, When, How?* (1936). From this perspective, politics is about diversity and conflict, but the essential ingredient is the existence of scarcity: the simple fact that, while human needs and desires are infinite, the resources available to satisfy them are always limited. Politics can therefore be seen as a struggle over scarce resources, and power can be seen as the means through which this struggle is conducted. Power can be said to be exercised whenever A gets B to do something that B would not otherwise have done. However, A can influence B in various ways. This allows us to distinguish between different dimensions or ‘faces’ of power:

**Power as decision-making:** This face of power consists of conscious actions that in some way influence the content of decisions. The classic account of this form of power is found in Robert Dahl’s *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City* (1961), which made judgements about who had power by analysing decisions in the light of the known preferences of the actors involved. Such decisions can nevertheless be influenced in a variety of ways. In *Three Faces of Power* (1989), Keith Boulding distinguished between the use of force or intimidation (the stick), productive exchanges involving mutual gain (the deal), and the creation of obligations, loyalty and commitment (the kiss).

**Power as agenda setting:** The second face of power, as suggested by Bachrach and Baratz (1962), is the ability to prevent decisions being made: that is, in effect, ‘non-decision-making’. This involves the ability to set or control the political agenda, thereby preventing issues or proposals from being aired in the first place. For instance, private businesses may exert power both by campaigning to defeat proposed consumer-protection legislation (first face), and by lobbying parties and politicians to prevent the question of consumer rights being publicly discussed (second face).

**Power as thought control:** The third face of power is the ability to influence another by shaping what he or she thinks, wants, or needs. This is power expressed as ideological indoctrination or

psycho- logical control. This is what Lukes (2004) called the ‘radical’ view of power, and it overlaps with the notion of ‘soft’ power (see p. 428). An example of this would be the ability of advertising to shape consumer tastes, often by cultivating associations with a ‘brand’. In political life, the exercise of this form of power is seen in the use of propaganda and, more generally, in the impact of ideology

## 2. Define liberty and explain the difference between positive liberty and negative liberty with examples.

Definition of Liberty	5
Positive Liberty- Meaning and Example	1.5+ 1= 2.5
Negative Liberty- Meaning and Example	1.5+ 1= 2.5

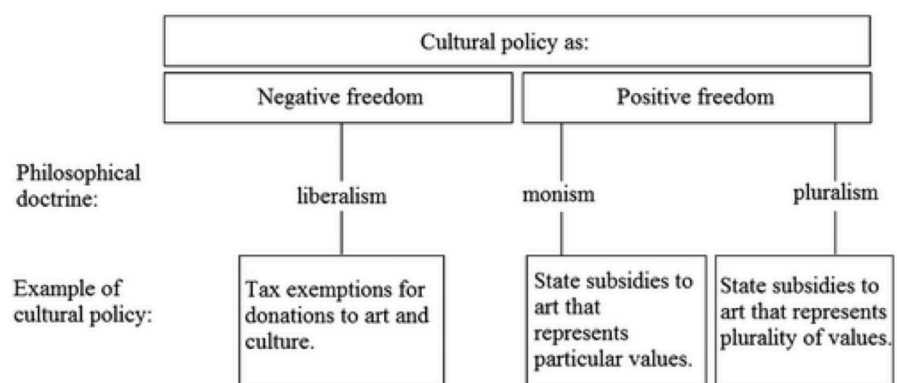
Negative liberty is the absence of obstacles, barriers or constraints. One has negative liberty to the extent that actions are available to one in this negative sense. Positive liberty is the possibility of acting — or the fact of acting — in such a way as to take control of one’s life and realize one’s fundamental purposes. While negative liberty is usually attributed to individual agents, positive liberty is sometimes attributed to collectivities, or to individuals considered primarily as members of given collectivities.

In a famous essay first published in 1958, Isaiah Berlin called these two concepts of liberty negative and positive respectively (Berlin 1969). The reason for using these labels is that in the first case liberty seems to be a mere absence of something (i.e. of obstacles, barriers, constraints or interference from others), whereas in the second case it seems to require the presence of something (i.e. of control, self-mastery, self-determination or self-realization).

## Liberty

### Meaning and Interpretation

- the notion of choice,
- the absence of constraints to make and exercise such a choice,
- the existence conditions that enable you to actuate the choice.



### 3. Discuss any five features of the Indian Constitution.

Feature plus description	5 x 2 = 10
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## Features of Indian Constitution

Written Constitution	Fundamental Rights
Drawn from Various Sources	Fundamental Duties
Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility	Directive Principles of State Policy
Parliamentary Form of Democracy	Secularism with Indian Characteristics
Integrated and Independent Judiciary	Single Citizenship
Rule of Law	Universal Adult Franchise
Federal System with Unitary Bias	Autonomous Constitutional Bodies
Division of Power	Three-tier Government
Balance of Power	Co-operative Societies