



Roll No:

End Semester Examination, December 2024
B.A. (Hons) Political Science/B.A. Program – 5th Semester
Western Political Thought (SHPL303A)

Time: 2.5 hrs.

Max Marks: **50**

Note: *All Questions are compulsory. Marks are indicated against each question.*

PART-A

Q.1 Attempt **any five** out of the seven questions:

- (a) Who wrote 'The Prince'? What was the purpose? [CO-1] [L-1] **2**
- (b) Define the term "social contract" [CO-1] [L-1] **2**
- (c) Explain Hobbes' concept of the "state of nature". [CO-1] [L-2] **2**
- (d) Distinguish between Rousseau's idea of "general will" and "particular will". [CO-1] [L-2] **2**
- (e) Apply Mill's harm principle to a contemporary social issue. [CO-1] [L-3] **2**
- (f) Analyse Marx's critique of capitalism. [CO-1] [L-4] **2**
- (g) Evaluate the relevance of Machiavelli's political ideas in modern politics. [CO-1] [L-5] **2**

2x5

PART-B

Q.2 Compare and contrast the views of Hobbes and Locke on the nature of the social contract and its implications for political authority.

OR

[CO-2][L-3] **10**

Examine Rousseau's concept of the "general will" and its potential implications for democratic governance. How does it differ from earlier social contract theories?

Q.3 Analyse the key arguments presented in Mary Wollstonecraft's "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman". How did her ideas challenge the prevailing notions of gender roles and women's rights in the context of Enlightenment political thought?

OR

[CO-3] [L-4] **10**

Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of utilitarianism as a political philosophy, drawing on the ideas of both Bentham and Mill. How does their approach differ from Kant's deontological ethics?

Q.4 Evaluate the contributions of Hegel's dialectical method to political philosophy. How did Marx adapt and transform Hegel's ideas in developing his materialist conception of history and critique of capitalism?

OR

[CO-4] [L-5] **10**

Assess the enduring relevance of Kant's ideas on republicanism and perpetual peace to contemporary international relations. To what extent do his insights about cosmopolitanism and global governance remain applicable today?

Q.5 Create a comprehensive political manifesto that synthesises key ideas from at least three thinkers covered in the course. Explain how these ideas would address contemporary political challenges and justify your choices.

OR

[CO-5] [L-6] **10**

Develop a hypothetical political system that incorporates elements from various political theories studied in the course. Explain how this system would function in practice, addressing potential strengths and weaknesses, and justify your design choices.