

PSIR Optional Syllabus for Paper 1

Political Theory and Indian Politics

Macro Topic	Micro Topics
Political Theory	Meaning and approaches.
Theories of state	Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, post-colonial and Feminist.
Justice	Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques.
Equality	Social, political and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.
Rights	Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; Concept of Human Rights.
Democracy	Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy—representative, participatory and deliberative.
Concept of power	Hegemony, Ideology and Legitimacy.
Political Ideologies	Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism
Indian Political Thought	Dharamshastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist Traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M. K. Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar, M. N. Roy.
Western Political Thought	Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.

Indian Government and Politics

Macro Topic	Micro Topics
Indian Nationalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience; • Militant and Revolutionary Movements, Peasant and Workers Movements. - Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical Humanist and Dalit.
Making of the Indian Constitution	Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.
Salient Features of the Indian Constitution	The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.
Principle organs of the government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal Organs of the Union Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and Supreme Court. - Principal Organs of the State Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and High Courts.
Grassroots Democracy	Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; Significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroots movements.
Statutory Institutions/Commissions	Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Finance Commission, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women; National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Minorities, National Backward Classes Commission.
Federalism	Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.
Planning and Economic Development	Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; Role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land

	reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and economic reforms.
Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics	N/A
Party System	- National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; Patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behaviour; changing socio-economic profile of Legislators.
Social Movement	- Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements.

PSIR Optional Syllabus - Paper 2

Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics

Macro Topic	Micro Topics
Comparative Politics	- Nature and major approaches; - Political economy and political sociology perspectives; - Limitations of the comparative method.
State in Comparative Perspective	Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies and advanced industrial and developing societies.
Politics of Representation and Participation	Political parties, pressure groups and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.
Globalisation	Responses from developed and developing societies.
Approaches to the Study of International Relations	Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.
Key Concepts in International Relations	- National interest, security and power; - Balance of power and deterrence; - Transnational actors and collective security; - World capitalist economy and globalisation.

<p>Changing International Political Order</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rise of super powers; Strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and cold war; Nuclear threat; - Non-aligned Movement: Aims and achievements. - Collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; Relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world.
<p>Evolution of the International Economic System</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Brettonwoods to WTO; - Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); - Third World demand for new international economic order; - Globalisation of the world economy.
<p>United Nations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Envisaged role and actual record; - Specialized UN agencies—aims and functioning; - need for UN reforms.
<p>Regionalisation of World Politics</p>	<p>EU, ASEAN, APEC, AARC, NAFTA.</p>
<p>Contemporary Global Concerns</p>	<p>Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice terrorism, nuclear proliferation.</p>

India and the World

Macro Topic	Micro Topics
Indian Foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determinants of foreign policy; - The institutions of policy-making; - Continuity and change.
India's Contribution	<p>To the Non-Alignment Movement Different phases; Current role.</p>
India and South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Co-operation: SAARC-past performance and future prospects. - South Asia as a Free Trade Area. - India's "Look East" policy. - Impediments to regional cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River water disputes; • illegal cross-border migration; • Ethnic conflicts and insurgencies; • Border disputes.
India and the Global South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relations with Africa and Latin America; - A leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations.
India and the Global Centres of Power	<p>USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.</p>
India and the UN System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role in UN Peace-keeping; - Demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.
India and the Nuclear Question	<p>Changing perceptions and policy.</p>
Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's position on the recent crises in Afghanistan, Iraq and West Asia, growing relations with the US and Israel; - Vision of a new world order.