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UGC NET Paper 2

Political Science (002)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Political Theory
02 Western Political Thought
03 Indian Political Thought
04 Comparative Political Analysis
05 International Relations
06 India's Foreign Policy
07 Political Institutions in India
08 Political Processes in India
09 Public Administration
10 Governance and Public Policy in India

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How to use these notes

- Read one unit at a time, then test yourself with its key revision points.
- Make your own short notes on topics you find difficult.
- Units follow the main areas of the official syllabus — the exact unit list can change between sessions.
- Always check the latest syllabus and notices on the official UGC NET portal: **ugcnet.nta.ac.in**.

UNIT 01

Political Theory

Key concepts — liberty, equality, justice, rights, democracy, power — and ideologies.

> Political theory examines the ideas that shape how societies are governed.

Concept	Key thinkers / ideas
Liberty	J. S. Mill (*On Liberty*, harm principle); Isaiah Berlin — negative vs positive liberty
Justice	John Rawls (*A Theory of Justice*, 1971 — veil of ignorance, difference principle); Nozick (entitlement theory)
Equality	Equality of opportunity vs outcome; Amartya Sen — capability approach
Rights	Natural, legal and human rights
Democracy	Liberal, participatory, deliberative (Habermas)
Power	Weber (authority types), Foucault (power/knowledge), Gramsci (hegemony)

Ideologies: liberalism, conservatism, socialism, Marxism, feminism, multiculturalism, environmentalism.

★ Key revision points

- Negative/positive liberty = Berlin.
- Veil of ignorance = Rawls.
- Harm principle = Mill.
- Capability approach = Sen.

UNIT 02

Western Political Thought

Major Western thinkers from Plato to Marx and beyond.

Thinker	Key work / idea
Plato	*The Republic* — philosopher-king, ideal state
Aristotle	*Politics* — 'man is a political animal'; polity
Machiavelli	*The Prince* (1513) — separation of politics from ethics
Hobbes	*Leviathan* (1651) — state of nature 'nasty, brutish and short'; absolute sovereign
Locke	*Two Treatises of Government* — natural rights to life, liberty, property
Rousseau	*The Social Contract* (1762) — general will
Bentham, Mill	Utilitarianism
Hegel	Dialectics; the state as the march of God on earth
Marx	*Communist Manifesto* (1848, with Engels); historical materialism; class struggle

★ Key revision points

- General will = Rousseau.
- *Leviathan* = Hobbes.
- Natural rights incl. property = Locke.
- *The Prince* = Machiavelli.

UNIT 03

Indian Political Thought

Ancient Indian political ideas and modern Indian thinkers.

Thinker	Key ideas
Kautilya	*Arthashastra* — saptanga theory (seven limbs of the state), mandala theory
Manu	*Manusmriti* — dharma and social order
Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Social reform; Brahmo Samaj
Dadabhai Naoroji	Drain theory
Gandhi	Swaraj, satyagraha, ahimsa, trusteeship; *Hind Swaraj* (1909)
B. R. Ambedkar	Annihilation of caste; constitutional democracy; social justice
Nehru	Secularism, socialism, non-alignment
M. N. Roy	Radical humanism
Ram Manohar Lohia	Socialism; four-pillar state

★ Key revision points

- Saptanga theory = Kautilya.
- Drain theory = Naoroji.
- *Hind Swaraj* = Gandhi (1909).
- Radical humanism = M. N. Roy.

UNIT 04

Comparative Political Analysis

Approaches, constitutionalism, forms of government, party systems and political culture.

- Approaches: institutional, systems (David Easton), structural-functional (Gabriel Almond), political economy.
- **Almond and Verba:** political culture — parochial, subject, participant (*The Civic Culture*).
- **Duverger's law:** first-past-the-post tends to produce two-party systems.
- Forms: parliamentary vs presidential; unitary vs federal.

Parliamentary	Presidential
Executive drawn from and responsible to the legislature	Separation of powers; fixed term
e.g. UK, India	e.g. USA

★ Key revision points

- Systems theory = Easton.
- Political culture = Almond and Verba.
- Duverger's law: FPTP → two parties.
- Structural-functional approach = Almond.

UNIT 05

International Relations

Theories of IR, power, security, international organisations and global issues.

Theory	Key thinkers / idea
Classical realism	Hans Morgenthau — *Politics Among Nations* (1948); national interest as power
Neo-realism (structural)	Kenneth Waltz — anarchy shapes state behaviour
Liberalism / neo-liberalism	Interdependence, institutions (Keohane and Nye)
Constructivism	Alexander Wendt — 'anarchy is what states make of it'
Dependency / world-systems	Wallerstein — core, semi-periphery, periphery

United Nations founded **24 October 1945**; Security Council has 5 permanent members with veto (USA, UK, France, Russia, China).

★ **Key revision points**

- Morgenthau = classical realism.
- Waltz = neo-realism.
- Wendt = constructivism.
- UN founded 24 October 1945.

UNIT 06

India's Foreign Policy

Principles, non-alignment, relations with neighbours and major powers.

- **Panchsheel** (1954, India–China): five principles of peaceful coexistence.
- **Non-Aligned Movement** — Belgrade summit, 1961 (Nehru, Nasser, Tito, Sukarno, Nkrumah).
- Look East (1991) → **Act East** policy (2014); Neighbourhood First.
- Groupings: SAARC (1985), BRICS, SCO, QUAD, G20.
- Nuclear: Pokhran tests 1974 and 1998; India–US civil nuclear deal (2008).

★ Key revision points

- Panchsheel: 1954.
- NAM Belgrade summit: 1961.
- Act East: 2014.
- SAARC: 1985.

UNIT 07

Political Institutions in India

The Constitution, Union and state government, judiciary and federalism.

Feature	Key facts
Constituent Assembly	First met 9 December 1946; Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee; Constitution adopted 26 November 1949, in force 26 January 1950
Fundamental Rights	Part III, Articles 12–35; Article 32 — constitutional remedies
Directive Principles	Part IV, Articles 36–51 (inspired by Ireland)
Fundamental Duties	Part IV-A, Article 51A — added by the 42nd Amendment (1976)
Basic structure	*Kesavananda Bharati* case (1973)
Emergency provisions	Articles 352 (national), 356 (state), 360 (financial)

Federalism with a unitary bias; three lists in the Seventh Schedule — Union, State, Concurrent.

★ Key revision points

- Constitution in force: 26 January 1950.
- Basic structure doctrine: 1973.
- Fundamental Duties: 42nd Amendment, 1976.
- Article 356 = President's Rule.

UNIT 08

Political Processes in India

Elections, parties, social movements, caste, religion and regionalism in politics.

- Election Commission (Article 324); first general election 1951–52; anti-defection law — 52nd Amendment (1985), Tenth Schedule.
- Party system: one-party dominance ('Congress system' — Rajni Kothari) → coalition era → new dominance.
- Caste in politics; Mandal Commission (OBC reservation, implemented 1990).
- 73rd and 74th Amendments (1992) — panchayats and municipalities.
- Social movements: farmers', environmental (Chipko, Narmada Bachao Andolan), Dalit and women's movements.

★ Key revision points

- Election Commission: Article 324.
- Anti-defection: 52nd Amendment, 1985.
- 'Congress system' = Rajni Kothari.
- 73rd/74th Amendments: 1992.

UNIT 09

Public Administration

Theories of administration, bureaucracy, new public management and administrative thinkers.

Thinker	Contribution
Woodrow Wilson	'The Study of Administration' (1887) — politics–administration dichotomy
Max Weber	Ideal-type bureaucracy
Luther Gulick	POSDCORB
Herbert Simon	Bounded rationality; decision-making
Chester Barnard	Acceptance theory of authority
Fred Riggs	Ecological approach; prismatic society

New Public Management: market-style efficiency; **New Public Service** (Denhardt): citizens over customers.

★ **Key revision points**

- Public administration as a discipline: Wilson, 1887.
- Bounded rationality = Simon.
- Prismatic society = Riggs.
- POSDCORB = Gulick.

UNIT 10

Governance and Public Policy in India

Good governance, accountability, citizen-centric administration and the policy process.

- Good governance (World Bank): accountability, transparency, rule of law, participation.
- **Right to Information Act, 2005**; Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013; Citizen's Charter; e-governance.
- Policy cycle: agenda setting → formulation → adoption → implementation → evaluation.
- NITI Aayog (2015) — policy think tank; cooperative federalism.

★ Key revision points

- RTI Act: 2005.
- Lokpal Act: 2013.
- NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission in 2015.
- Policy cycle has five broad stages.

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