

Lesson - 1

Meaning and Scope of Political Science

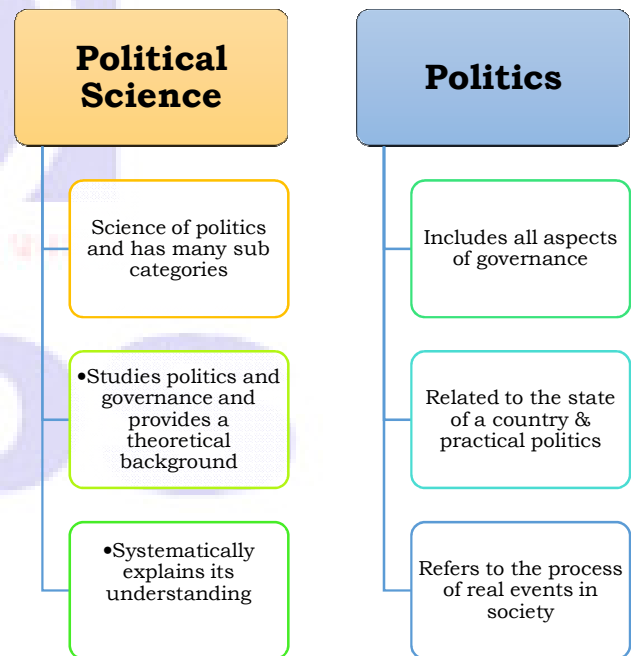
Summary -

The subject of Political Science has become a specialized science of the state where we study about Power, Equality, Liberty and Justice, different forms of government & its functions and relation with the citizens. The meaning and scope of political science has kept on changing as in the ancient Greeks thought of Political Science as Political Philosophy, in the Middle Ages, Political Science became a branch of the Church, & in modern times, Political Science acquired a realistic and secular approach.

Meaning & Development of Political Science-

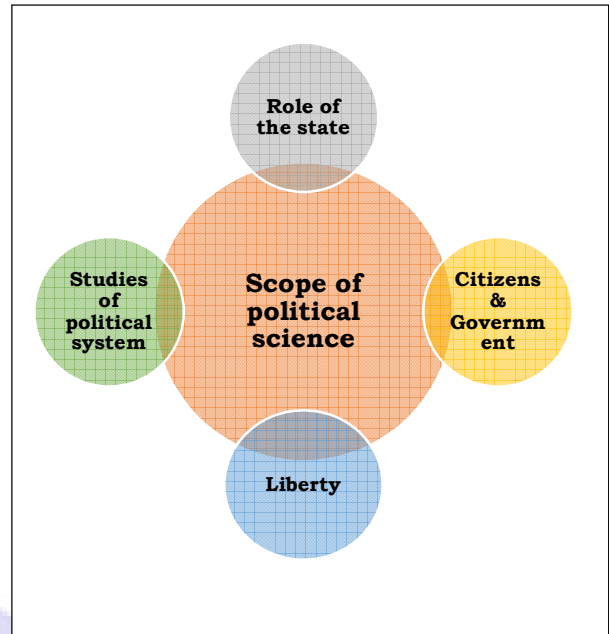
- ✚ The word politics originated from the Greek word "polis" which means city – state.
- ✚ Political science is a study of state & power & it is a part of social science.
- ✚ It is a discipline that deals with experiential statements & evaluates current political institutions & organizations.
- ✚ Political Science deals with both domain "what is" and "what should be".
- ✚ The Industrial Revolution & 2nd World War brought changes in Political science.
- ✚ The pragmatist movement in the 1950s & 1960s emphasizing the scientific side of Politics.
- ✚ Political science has developed systematically.

Difference between Political Science and Politics



Scope of Political Science -

- ✚ Role of the State, & its elements – People, territory, government & Sovereignty.
- ✚ Functions of the government.
- ✚ Liberty – a person can act according to his will and alternatively with political freedom.
- ✚ State & Government relationship with the citizens.
- ✚ The analytical studies of the political system.



Justice and its relevance to the citizen and the state

Distributive justice

Equality of Opportunity

Merit

Need & Equality

Communitarian Justice

Justice and its relevance for Citizens and State –

- ✚ Justice word is derived from Latin language "Jas" which means a bond.
- ✚ Justice is to render to everyone his/her due.
- ✚ Justice is a variable concept.

Justice and its relationship with liberty & equality –

- ✚ Liberty and equality are the two aspects of Justice & the ultimate objective of both is

Distributive justice –

There should be a fair distribution of the prestigious posts and income of the society. Distributive justice has two sides.

- Merit-** Every person's social status and property should be decided according to his / her ability.
- Need & Equality** - Object & reputation should be determined based on the need of the person.

Equality of Opportunity –

- ✚ Same reward or treatment for everybody, regardless of efforts and circumstances.

Communitarian Justice –

- ✚ Justice that does not take either merit or need.
- ✚ It considers the overall results.

Evaluate Yourself –

1. Write down the definitions of Political Science given by Socrates, Plato, & Aristotle.
2. Justice is to “render to everyone his/her due, justify the statement with suitable example.
3. The political science starts and ends with the state, in reference to the statement write your views in your own words.



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