

UGC NET Political Science Syllabus 2026 - Unit-Wise Checklist

A printable map of all ten subject-code 02 units, thinkers, institutions, international relations themes and a six-week revision plan.

02 Subject code	150 Total questions	300 Total marks	180 min Combined time	None Negative marking
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Version note: the UGC repository identifies the updated syllabus as applicable from June 2019 onward. The 2026 label refers to the exam cycle, not to a fresh subject-syllabus revision.

How to use this PDF

Print it or mark it digitally. Tick a topic only after you can explain it, solve recent questions from it, and review your errors. This is a planning aid, not a replacement for the official syllabus.

Official UGC Political Science syllabus:

https://www.ugcnetonline.in/showPdf.php?p1=NTA_All_R_Syllabus%2F02%2FPolitical+Science_English.pdf

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1. Units 1-3: theory and political thought

Unit 1 - Political Theory

- ☐ Liberty, equality, justice and rights
- ☐ Liberalism and conservatism
- ☐ Feminism and ecologism

- ☐ Democracy, power and citizenship
- ☐ Socialism and Marxism
- ☐ Multiculturalism and postmodernism

Unit 2 - Political Thought

- ☐ Confucius, Plato and Aristotle
- ☐ Hegel, Wollstonecraft and J. S. Mill
- ☐ Fanon, Mao Zedong and John Rawls

- ☐ Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau
- ☐ Marx, Gramsci and Hannah Arendt

Unit 3 - Indian Political Thought

- ☐ Dharmashastra, Kautilya and Aggannasutta
- ☐ Tilak, Vivekananda and Tagore
- ☐ Iqbal, M. N. Roy and Savarkar

- ☐ Barani, Kabir and Pandita Ramabai
- ☐ Gandhi, Aurobindo and Periyar
- ☐ Ambedkar, Nehru, Lohia, J. P. Narayan and Upadhyaya

Thinker-study template

Thinker	Core problem	Key concept	Best comparison
Plato			
Hobbes			
Locke			
Rousseau			
Marx			
Rawls			



2. Units 4-6: comparison, IR and foreign policy

Unit 4 - Comparative Political Analysis

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Institutional, culture, economy and new-institutional approaches | ☐ Comparative method |
| ☐ Colonialism, decolonisation and nationalism | ☐ State theory and globalisation |
| ☐ Democratic and non-democratic regimes | ☐ Constitutionalism, democratisation and development |
| ☐ Power structures, elections, parties, movements and civil society | |

Unit 5 - International Relations

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Major IR approaches | ☐ State, power, sovereignty and security |
| ☐ Conflict, peace, warfare and deterrence | ☐ United Nations, international law and ICC |
| ☐ Global political economy and governance | ☐ Regional organisations |
| ☐ Terrorism, climate, human rights, migration and development | |

Unit 6 - India's Foreign Policy

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Identity and perspectives | ☐ Principles, determinants and continuity/change |
| ☐ Non-alignment and nuclear policy | ☐ Relations with major powers |
| ☐ Engagement with regional and global groupings | ☐ Neighbourhood policy |
| ☐ Negotiation in international regimes | ☐ Maritime, energy, environment, water and cyber security |

Revision method

Build comparison tables: approach vs assumptions, institution vs function, organisation vs membership, and foreign-policy phase vs continuity/change. Update current examples without replacing the syllabus concepts.



3. Units 7-10: India, administration and governance

Unit 7 - Political Institutions in India

- ☐ Constitution making and Constituent Assembly
- ☐ Amendments, checks and balances and basic structure
- ☐ Judiciary and judicial review
- ☐ Election Commission and electoral reform
- ☐ Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
- ☐ Union and state executives and legislatures
- ☐ Federalism and coordination
- ☐ Local, constitutional and statutory bodies

Unit 8 - Political Processes in India

- ☐ State, economy and development
- ☐ Identity politics
- ☐ Regionalisation and new-state demands
- ☐ Parties and electoral politics
- ☐ Globalisation and its implications
- ☐ Social movements and civil society
- ☐ Gender and representation

Unit 9 - Public Administration

- ☐ Meaning, evolution and approaches
- ☐ Public administration and management theories
- ☐ Leadership and motivation
- ☐ Decision, systems and ecological approaches
- ☐ Organisation, bureaucracy and human relations
- ☐ Communication, conflict and management by objectives

Unit 10 - Governance and Public Policy

- ☐ Good and democratic governance
- ☐ RTI, citizen charter and grievance redress
- ☐ Grassroots and decentralised governance
- ☐ E-governance and NITI Aayog
- ☐ Accountability and institutional controls
- ☐ Lokpal and Lokayukta
- ☐ Sustainable and participatory development
- ☐ Policy monitoring, social audit and public services



4. Thinker master tracker

Political thought

- [] Confucius: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Aristotle: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Hobbes: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Rousseau: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Mary Wollstonecraft: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Karl Marx: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Hannah Arendt: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Mao Zedong: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Plato: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Machiavelli: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Locke: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Hegel: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] J. S. Mill: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Gramsci: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] Frantz Fanon: concept, text/context, critique, comparison
- [] John Rawls: concept, text/context, critique, comparison

Indian political thought

- [] Kautilya: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Kabir: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] B. G. Tilak: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Tagore: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Sri Aurobindo: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Muhammad Iqbal: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] V. D. Savarkar: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] J. L. Nehru: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] J. P. Narayan: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Barani: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Pandita Ramabai: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Vivekananda: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] M. K. Gandhi: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Periyar: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] M. N. Roy: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] B. R. Ambedkar: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Ram Manohar Lohia: context, core argument, social/political question
- [] Deendayal Upadhyaya: context, core argument, social/political question



5. Institutions and world-relations tracker

Institution / body	Structure	Core role	Debate / reform
Parliament			
Supreme Court			
Election Commission			
CAG			
Inter-State Council			
Local government			
NHRC			

Organisation / regime	Purpose	India link	Current example
United Nations			
WTO			
IMF			
G20			
BRICS			
ASEAN			
SCO			
African Union			

Comparison prompts

- ☐ Liberalism vs Marxism
- ☐ Old vs new institutionalism
- ☐ Parliamentary control vs judicial control
- ☐ Policy design vs monitoring and evaluation
- ☐ Positive vs negative liberty
- ☐ Realism vs constructivism
- ☐ Government vs governance



6. Six-week unit-wise plan

Week	Main focus	Completion	Review
W1	Units 1-2: concepts, traditions and Western thinkers	☐ Notes ☐ PYQs ☐ Mock	Score: ____ / ____
W2	Unit 3: Indian thinkers; compare social and national questions	☐ Notes ☐ PYQs ☐ Mock	Score: ____ / ____
W3	Units 4-5: comparative politics and IR approaches	☐ Notes ☐ PYQs ☐ Mock	Score: ____ / ____
W4	Units 6-7: foreign policy and Indian institutions	☐ Notes ☐ PYQs ☐ Mock	Score: ____ / ____
W5	Units 8-10: processes, administration, governance and policy	☐ Notes ☐ PYQs ☐ Mock	Score: ____ / ____
W6	Full revision, PYQs, two mocks and error-log repair	☐ Notes ☐ PYQs ☐ Mock	Score: ____ / ____

Output for every unit

- ☐ One-page syllabus map
- ☐ Ten key terms
- ☐ Five comparison pairs
- ☐ Recent PYQs tagged by subtopic
- ☐ One timed 25-question set
- ☐ Error list revised twice

PYQ rule

Use previous questions to discover recurring concepts and distractor patterns. Do not narrow the syllabus only to what appeared recently; the official test can sample any listed area.



7. Mock and final-revision record

Mock	Paper I /100	Political Science /200	Weak units	Repair date
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

Unit	First pass	PYQs	Revision 1	Revision 2	Ready
1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Final source check

Official Political Science syllabus - English:

https://www.ugcnetonline.in/showPdf.php?p1=NTA_All_R_Syllabus%2F02%2FPolitical+Science_English.pdf

Official Political Science syllabus - Hindi:

https://www.ugcnetonline.in/showPdf.php?p1=NTA_All_R_Syllabus%2F02%2FPolitical+Science_Hindi.pdf

NTA UGC NET June 2026 information bulletin:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s301eee509ee2f68dc6014898c309e86bf/uploads/2026/04/202604301078678748.pdf>

This is an original condensed checklist. The official six-page syllabus remains the controlling source for complete wording and scope.

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Independent publication. Not issued by UGC or NTA. The latest official syllabus and bulletin always prevail.