

UGC NET Political Science Thinkers and Books Matrix

A match-and-recall table connecting 30 major Western and Indian thinkers with concepts, books, years and concise concept cues.

30 Thinkers	60+ Books and texts	2 Traditions	10 UGC units
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Quotation note: the final column contains our paraphrased memory cues, not invented or verbatim quotations. Ancient dates and the dating of layered texts are approximate or debated where stated.

How to use this PDF

Read one table, close the page, and reproduce the key terms from memory. Reopen the page only to mark gaps. This is an independent revision aid, not an official publication or a substitute for the controlling text.

Official UGC NET Political Science syllabus:

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

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1. Western political thought - classical to liberal

Thinker	Core concepts	Books / years	Paraphrased exam cue
Plato	Justice, philosopher-rule, ideal polity	Republic (c. 375 BCE); Statesman (c. 360 BCE)	Justice links each part performing its proper function.
Aristotle	Polity, citizenship, constitutional classification	Politics (c. 350 BCE); Nicomachean Ethics (c. 340 BCE)	Political association aims at a good human life.
Machiavelli	Virtu, fortuna, statecraft, republican liberty	The Prince (1532); Discourses on Livy (1531)	Judge counsel by political context, capacity and consequences.
Thomas Hobbes	State of nature, authorization, undivided sovereignty	De Cive (1642); Leviathan (1651)	Security requires a common power able to enforce covenants.
John Locke	Natural rights, consent, limited government	Two Treatises of Government (1689); Letter Concerning Toleration (1689)	Government is a trust directed to life, liberty and estate.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	General will, popular sovereignty, moral freedom	Discourse on Inequality (1755); The Social Contract (1762)	Legitimate law expresses citizens acting as a collective sovereign.
Jeremy Bentham	Utility, legal reform, felicific calculation	A Fragment on Government (1776); Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation (1789)	Assess institutions by their contribution to aggregate welfare.
J. S. Mill	Liberty, harm principle, individuality, representation	On Liberty (1859); Considerations on Representative Government (1861)	Coercion needs a public reason tied to preventing harm to others.



2. Western political thought - idealism to contemporary theory

Thinker	Core concepts	Books / years	Paraphrased exam cue
G. W. F. Hegel	Recognition, ethical life, civil society and state	Phenomenology of Spirit (1807); Philosophy of Right (1821)	Freedom becomes concrete through social and political institutions.
Karl Marx	Historical materialism, class, alienation, capital	The Communist Manifesto (1848); Capital, Vol. I (1867)	Social relations of production shape conflict and historical change.
Antonio Gramsci	Hegemony, civil society, organic intellectuals	Prison Notebooks (written 1929-1935); Selections published 1971	Rule is stabilized through consent and cultural leadership as well as force.
Hannah Arendt	Totalitarianism, action, public realm, plurality	The Origins of Totalitarianism (1951); The Human Condition (1958)	Political action appears among plural persons in a shared public world.
John Rawls	Original position, veil of ignorance, justice as fairness	A Theory of Justice (1971); Political Liberalism (1993)	Fair principles are chosen without knowledge of one's social advantage.
Robert Nozick	Entitlement theory, self-ownership, minimal state	Anarchy, State, and Utopia (1974)	Justice in holdings depends on acquisition, transfer and rectification.
Michel Foucault	Discipline, discourse, power-knowledge, governmentality	Discipline and Punish (1975); History of Sexuality, Vol. I (1976)	Modern power often works through norms, observation and self-regulation.



3. Indian political thought - classical and reform traditions

Thinker	Core concepts	Books / years	Paraphrased exam cue
Kautilya	Statecraft, saptanga, mandala, welfare and security	Arthashastra (composition and redaction dates debated)	Prudence joins material capacity, intelligence, diplomacy and public order.
The Buddha	Dhamma, middle path, ethical authority, social critique	Teachings preserved in early Buddhist canons; Dhammapada is a verse collection	Good rule is connected with restraint, compassion and reduction of suffering.
Swami Vivekananda	Practical Vedanta, strength, service, spiritual humanism	Raja Yoga (1896); Lectures from Colombo to Almora (1897)	Human development joins dignity, self-confidence, education and service.
Rabindranath Tagore	Freedom, humanism, critique of aggressive nationalism	Nationalism (1917); The Religion of Man (1931)	Human personality should not be reduced to the machinery of the nation-state.
M. K. Gandhi	Swaraj, satyagraha, non-violence, trusteeship	Hind Swaraj (1909); Satyagraha in South Africa (1928)	Means shape ends; self-rule begins with ethical self-discipline.
B. R. Ambedkar	Social democracy, caste annihilation, constitutional morality	Annihilation of Caste (1936); States and Minorities (1947)	Political equality cannot endure without social and economic democracy.
Jawaharlal Nehru	Democratic planning, secularism, scientific temper	Glimpses of World History (1934); The Discovery of India (1946)	Modern citizenship needs democratic institutions and a critical scientific outlook.
V. D. Savarkar	Hindutva, nationhood, political organization	The Indian War of Independence, 1857 (1909); Hindutva (1923)	His account connects nationhood with territory, ancestry and cultural identity.



4. Indian political thought - anti-caste, humanist and socialist strands

Thinker	Core concepts	Books / years	Paraphrased exam cue
M. N. Roy	Radical humanism, freedom, reason, partyless democracy	New Humanism: A Manifesto (1947); Reason, Romanticism and Revolution (1952-1955)	Human freedom and rational cooperation should guide political reconstruction.
Jyotirao Phule	Caste critique, education, anti-Brahmanism, social equality	Gulamgiri (1873); Shetkaryacha Asud (1883)	Education and organization challenge inherited social domination.
Pandita Ramabai	Women's education, patriarchy, religious and social reform	The High-Caste Hindu Woman (1887)	Reform must confront the lived constraints placed on women's autonomy.
Sir Syed Ahmad Khan	Modern education, social reform, community politics	Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind (1858); Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq journal launched 1870	Educational reform is a route to social capacity and public participation.
Sri Aurobindo	Spiritual nationalism, human unity, evolution	The Ideal of Human Unity (serialised 1915-1918; book 1919)	Political unity should develop without erasing the diversity of human communities.
Ram Manohar Lohia	Socialism, caste, decentralisation, four-pillar state	The Wheel of History (1955); Marx, Gandhi and Socialism (1963)	Democratic socialism must confront caste and centralised power together.
Jayaprakash Narayan	Sarvodaya, partyless democracy, total revolution	A Plea for Reconstruction of Indian Polity (1959); Towards Total Revolution (1978 collection)	Democratic renewal requires social participation beyond periodic elections.



5. Match-the-pair revision ladder

Thinker cluster	Closed-book comparison task
Hobbes / Locke / Rousseau	Compare state of nature, consent, sovereignty and the purpose of political authority.
Bentham / Mill / Rawls / Nozick	Contrast utility, liberty, distributive fairness and entitlement.
Marx / Gramsci / Foucault	Separate class and production, hegemony and civil society, and disciplinary power.
Gandhi / Ambedkar	Compare caste, social change, political means and the relation between social and political democracy.
Tagore / Savarkar / Nehru	Compare humanism, nationhood, secular democratic modernity and cultural identity.
Phule / Ramabai / Ambedkar	Trace education, caste, patriarchy, dignity and institutional reform.

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

Book dates are bibliographic study cues; consult reliable editions for publication-history detail. Version 1.0 - 19 July 2026.