

UGC NET Political Science Topic-Wise Solved Practice 2026

Fifty original MCQs arranged across all ten subject-code 02 units, with the correct reason and a concise explanation of why each distractor fails.

10 Syllabus units	50 Original MCQs	4 Options each	2 Reason layers
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Accuracy note: these are original syllabus-aligned practice questions, not copied NTA questions and not represented as official PYQs. Use the official archive separately for real previous papers.

How to use this PDF

Use active recall: hide the answer column, attempt the question or formula from memory, then mark the exact reason for an error. Recheck the linked official source when an examination authority changes its syllabus or instructions.

Official UGC Political Science syllabus: https://ugcnetonline.in/NTA_All_R_Syllabus/02/Political%20Science_English.pdf

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Unit 1 - Political Theory

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q1. Which description best captures negative liberty?

A. Collective ownership of production	B. Absence of external interference
C. Equal distribution of every resource	D. Rule only by elected representatives

Answer: B - Negative liberty focuses on the area in which a person can act without obstruction by others.

Why the others fail: A concerns socialism, C is a distributive outcome, and D defines one institutional feature of representative democracy rather than liberty.

Q2. Which principle asks that relevantly similar cases be treated similarly?

A. Positive discrimination	B. Formal equality
C. Civic republicanism	D. Popular sovereignty

Answer: B - Formal equality requires like cases to receive like treatment under a common rule.

Why the others fail: Positive discrimination deliberately differentiates to remedy disadvantage; popular sovereignty concerns the source of authority; civic republicanism stresses active citizenship and freedom from domination.

Q3. In political theory, a right normally implies what corresponding idea?

A. A privilege without social recognition	B. A benefit that cannot be regulated
C. A claim that creates duties	D. An unlimited personal preference

Answer: C - A right is a justified claim whose recognition places duties on other persons or institutions.

Why the others fail: Preferences are not automatically rights, social recognition is central to enforceable claims, and most rights can be reasonably regulated.

Q4. Which tradition most directly treats class conflict as a driver of historical change?

A. Multiculturalism	B. Ecologism
C. Marxism	D. Conservatism

Answer: C - Marxism explains major historical transformations through material relations and class struggle.

Why the others fail: Conservatism stresses continuity, ecologism centres ecological limits, and multiculturalism focuses recognition of cultural difference.

Q5. A feminist critique of the public-private divide mainly argues that:

A. Power also operates inside supposedly private life	B. Only the state can create inequality
C. Citizenship should exclude care work	D. Family relations are always outside politics

Answer: A - Feminist theory shows that household, care and gender relations contain power and cannot simply be declared non-political.

Why the others fail: D and C reproduce the divide being criticised, while B wrongly makes the state the only source of inequality.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 2 - Political Thought

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q6. For Hobbes, why do individuals authorise a sovereign?

A. To abolish every law	B. To preserve an inherited aristocracy
C. To create direct democracy	D. To escape insecurity in the state of nature

Answer: D - In Hobbes's account, covenant and sovereign authority provide peace and security against the dangers of the state of nature.

Why the others fail: B, A and C are not the purpose of Hobbes's social contract.

Q7. Rousseau's general will is best understood as:

A. The opinion of the richest group	B. The common good considered by citizens
C. The sum of private wishes	D. The ruler's personal command

Answer: B - The general will is directed toward the common interest, not a simple addition of private preferences.

Why the others fail: C is the will of all, D is personal rule, and A is sectional interest.

Q8. Gramsci used hegemony to explain rule maintained largely through:

A. Consent organised in civil society	B. Random administrative error
C. Permanent military occupation alone	D. Biological superiority

Answer: A - Hegemony combines leadership and consent, especially through institutions and practices of civil society.

Why the others fail: Coercion can support rule but C makes it exclusive; D and B are unrelated to Gramsci's concept.

Q9. Which thinker is most closely associated with the 'original position' and 'veil of ignorance'?

A. Machiavelli	B. John Rawls
C. Hegel	D. Frantz Fanon

Answer: B - Rawls uses these devices to model fair choice of principles of justice.

Why the others fail: The other thinkers address power, ethical life or decolonisation but do not use this contractual device.

Q10. Fanon's account of decolonisation places greatest emphasis on:

A. The neutrality of colonial culture	B. The psychological and political violence of colonial domination
C. The natural permanence of empire	D. The end of all national identity

Answer: B - Fanon analyses how colonialism dehumanises and how liberation remakes political subjectivity.

Why the others fail: A and C deny colonial domination, while D is not Fanon's general claim.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 3 - Indian Political Thought

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q11. Kautilya's saptanga theory describes the state through:

A. Two chambers of parliament	B. Five moral vows
C. Seven interdependent limbs	D. Four universal classes

Answer: C - The saptanga model identifies seven elements or limbs of state power and organisation.

Why the others fail: The other numbers refer to unrelated social, institutional or ethical classifications.

Q12. Gandhi's swaraj most fully combines:

A. Centralised industrial control	B. Military expansion
C. Self-rule with ethical self-discipline	D. Only transfer of rulers

Answer: C - For Gandhi, swaraj includes political freedom and the capacity for individual and collective self-rule.

Why the others fail: D is too narrow, while B and A conflict with his critique of violence and centralised industrial modernity.

Q13. Ambedkar's idea of constitutional morality requires citizens and officials to:

A. Obey any majority without limits	B. Reject social reform
C. Replace law with custom	D. Treat constitutional procedures and values as binding habits

Answer: D - Constitutional morality sustains democratic institutions through respect for constitutional methods, restraint and equality.

Why the others fail: A ignores constitutional limits; B and C contradict Ambedkar's reformist and legal approach.

Q14. Pandita Ramabai's political significance is especially connected with criticism of:

A. Anti-colonial peasant taxation only	B. Gender hierarchy and constraints on women's education
C. International law of the sea	D. Universal adult franchise

Answer: B - Ramabai exposed gender and caste constraints and advocated women's education and autonomy.

Why the others fail: The other subjects do not define her central contribution.

Q15. Ram Manohar Lohia's 'Sapta Kranti' proposed struggle against:

A. All forms of decentralisation	B. Only foreign trade
C. Multiple intersecting forms of inequality and domination	D. Only electoral competition

Answer: C - The seven revolutions address interconnected inequalities including caste, gender, race, class and political domination.

Why the others fail: B and D are too narrow, while A conflicts with Lohia's decentralist orientation.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 4 - Comparative Political Analysis

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q16. New institutionalism differs from older formal institutionalism by paying more attention to:

A. How rules, incentives and norms shape behaviour	B. Geography without politics
C. Only constitutional text	D. The rejection of all institutions

Answer: A - New institutional approaches examine formal and informal rules, incentives, paths and norms affecting actors.

Why the others fail: C describes the narrower formal focus; D and B do not state the approach.

Q17. A most-similar-systems comparison generally selects cases that are:

A. Similar on many background conditions but different on the outcome	B. Different on every feature
C. Identical on outcome and explanation	D. Chosen without a research question

Answer: A - Holding many contextual factors similar helps isolate a difference plausibly connected to the outcome.

Why the others fail: B describes a different comparative logic, while C and D provide little explanatory leverage.

Q18. Dependency theory explains underdevelopment mainly through:

A. A universal shortage of elections	B. Unequal structural relations between core and periphery
C. Individual psychology alone	D. Climate as the sole cause

Answer: B - Dependency approaches link peripheral development constraints to historically unequal integration into the world economy.

Why the others fail: The other options reduce a structural argument to unrelated single causes.

Q19. Democratic consolidation is strongest when:

A. The military chooses every government	B. Opposition parties are prohibited
C. Major actors accept democratic rules as the legitimate route to power	D. Elections are permanently suspended

Answer: C - Consolidation means democratic procedures become broadly accepted and resilient.

Why the others fail: D, A and B undermine competitive democratic rule.

Q20. Civil society is best distinguished from the state and market as:

A. A synonym for the armed forces	B. Only profit-seeking firms
C. The entire government bureaucracy	D. A sphere of voluntary associations and public action

Answer: D - Civil society includes associations, movements and networks through which citizens organise outside state offices and firms.

Why the others fail: C, B and A belong to other institutional spheres.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 5 - International Relations

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q21. Classical realism in international relations treats which factor as central?

A. The automatic disappearance of conflict	B. World government already in operation
C. Domestic courts as the only global actors	D. Power and survival in an anarchic system

Answer: D - Realist analysis foregrounds power, security and survival where no higher sovereign reliably protects states.

Why the others fail: A and B deny anarchy, while C excludes states and other international actors.

Q22. Collective security rests on the expectation that:

A. Only bilateral alliances can respond	B. Aggression against one will be treated as a concern of all
C. International organisations cannot act	D. Every state must remain neutral

Answer: B - Collective security seeks a general commitment to resist aggression regardless of the immediate victim.

Why the others fail: The remaining options negate the collective principle.

Q23. Deterrence aims primarily to:

A. Replace communication with secrecy	B. Guarantee that war will occur
C. Prevent an action by threatening unacceptable cost	D. Remove all uncertainty from politics

Answer: C - Deterrence influences an opponent's calculation so that the threatened action appears too costly.

Why the others fail: B is the opposite objective, and A and C are neither necessary nor sufficient.

Q24. Constructivism emphasises that international interests are shaped by:

A. Ideas, identities and social interaction	B. Weather alone
C. Material capability alone	D. Permanent biological traits

Answer: A - Constructivism studies how shared meanings and identities constitute interests and norms.

Why the others fail: C is an exclusively material account; D and B are reductionist and not constructivist.

Q25. Which pairing is correct?

A. ICJ - disputes between states; ICC - individual criminal responsibility	B. ICJ - domestic elections; ICC - trade tariffs
C. ICJ - private arbitration only; ICC - state budgets	D. ICJ - UN peacekeeping troops; ICC - monetary policy

Answer: A - The ICJ adjudicates legal disputes between states, while the ICC prosecutes individuals for specified international crimes.

Why the others fail: The other pairings assign functions neither court performs.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 6 - India's Foreign Policy

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q26. The Panchsheel principles were first formally set out in a 1954 agreement concerning:

A. The creation of SAARC	B. Trade and intercourse with the Tibet region of China
C. The Bandung Conference charter	D. India's first general election

Answer: B - The five principles appeared in the preamble to the 1954 India-China agreement on Tibet-region trade and intercourse.

Why the others fail: SAARC began in 1985, the first election preceded 1954, and Bandung took place in 1955.

Q27. Non-alignment during the Cold War meant primarily:

A. Legal neutrality in every conflict	B. Withdrawal from the United Nations
C. Independent judgement rather than automatic bloc alignment	D. Indifference to every international issue

Answer: C - Non-alignment sought policy autonomy and issue-based judgement outside rigid military blocs.

Why the others fail: It did not require silence, universal neutrality or UN withdrawal.

Q28. The Gujral Doctrine is most associated with:

A. Membership of NATO	B. Abolition of diplomacy
C. Creation of nuclear weapons	D. Unilateral accommodation toward smaller South Asian neighbours without insisting on reciprocity

Answer: D - The doctrine stressed trust and non-reciprocal cooperation by India toward smaller neighbours.

Why the others fail: The other options are unrelated or contrary to its regional purpose.

Q29. Strategic autonomy describes India's effort to:

A. Avoid all partnerships	B. Follow one great power automatically
C. Replace foreign policy with trade policy	D. Retain independent choices while building multiple partnerships

Answer: D - Strategic autonomy combines independent decision-making with flexible issue-based partnerships.

Why the others fail: A is isolation, B is alignment without autonomy, and C is an artificial reduction.

Q30. In maritime policy, SAGAR expands to:

A. Strategic Alliance for Global Air Routes	B. Security and Growth for All in the Region
C. Sovereign Agreement on Green Agricultural Reform	D. South Asian General Arms Regulation

Answer: B - SAGAR is India's formulation for cooperative security and growth in the Indian Ocean region.

Why the others fail: The other expansions are invented.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 7 - Political Institutions in India

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q31. The basic structure doctrine was articulated by the Supreme Court in:

A. Golaknath v. State of Punjab	B. A. K. Gopalan v. State of Madras
C. Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala	D. Shankari Prasad v. Union of India

Answer: C - Kesavananda Bharati (1973) held that Parliament's amending power cannot destroy the Constitution's basic structure.

Why the others fail: The other cases are important constitutional decisions but did not formulate the doctrine in its settled form.

Q32. Article 324 vests superintendence, direction and control of elections in the:

A. Election Commission of India	B. Comptroller and Auditor-General
C. Finance Commission	D. Union Public Service Commission

Answer: A - Article 324 is the constitutional foundation of the Election Commission's election-management authority.

Why the others fail: The other bodies arise under different articles and functions.

Q33. Article 263 permits the President to establish the:

A. Inter-State Council	B. Goods and Services Tax Council
C. National Commission for Scheduled Castes	D. Delimitation Commission

Answer: A - Article 263 provides for an Inter-State Council to inquire, discuss and advise on intergovernmental matters.

Why the others fail: The GST Council is under Article 279A; the other bodies have different legal foundations.

Q34. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is provided for in:

A. Article 280	B. Article 148
C. Article 356	D. Article 315

Answer: B - Article 148 establishes the office of the CAG.

Why the others fail: Article 280 concerns the Finance Commission, 315 Public Service Commissions, and 356 failure of constitutional machinery in a state.

Q35. A Bill is certified as a Money Bill by the:

A. President acting alone	B. Chief Justice of India
C. Speaker of the Lok Sabha	D. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

Answer: C - Article 110(3) makes the Speaker's decision on whether a Bill is a Money Bill final within the constitutional procedure.

Why the others fail: The other authorities do not issue the certification.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 8 - Political Processes in India

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q36. Rajni Kothari's description of the early post-independence party order is commonly called the:

A. Non-party state	B. Military-party complex
C. Two-party equilibrium	D. Congress system

Answer: D - Kothari used 'Congress system' for a dominant-party framework that also contained competition and factions.

Why the others fail: The other labels do not describe his analysis.

Q37. A new social movement approach usually highlights:

A. Only palace succession	B. Only interstate warfare
C. The absence of collective action	D. Identity, environment, gender and quality-of-life claims

Answer: D - New social movement analysis extends beyond workplace class conflict to identity, ecology, rights and everyday life.

Why the others fail: The other options exclude the movement themes being explained.

Q38. The linguistic reorganisation of states in 1956 was principally implemented through the:

A. Forty-second Amendment alone	B. States Reorganisation Act and Seventh Amendment
C. Tenth Schedule	D. Government of India Act 1919

Answer: B - The 1956 Act and Seventh Amendment reorganised state boundaries and the constitutional map.

Why the others fail: The 1919 Act predates independence, the 42nd Amendment came later, and the Tenth Schedule concerns defection.

Q39. Identity politics becomes politically significant when:

A. Political institutions cease to exist	B. Every social difference disappears
C. A shared identity structures claims, representation or mobilisation	D. Only economic prices matter

Answer: C - Identity becomes political when groups organise around recognition, resources, rights or representation.

Why the others fail: B, A and C remove the mechanisms through which identity politics operates.

Q40. Regionalisation in Indian politics can refer to:

A. The growing political salience of state and sub-state interests	B. Only international regional organisations
C. The end of federal politics	D. A ban on regional parties

Answer: A - Regionalisation captures the stronger articulation of territorial identities and interests within the Union.

Why the others fail: The remaining options contradict or misplace the concept.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 9 - Public Administration

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q41. Woodrow Wilson's early administrative argument is associated with the:

A. Politics-administration distinction	B. Theory of hegemonic stability
C. Saptanga state	D. Doctrine of basic structure

Answer: A - Wilson's 1887 essay became associated with separating administrative study from partisan political activity.

Why the others fail: The other concepts come from international relations, ancient Indian thought and constitutional law.

Q42. Weber's ideal-type bureaucracy is organised around:

A. Hereditary ownership of every office	B. Hierarchy, rules, specialisation and impersonal office
C. Decisions by lottery only	D. No written records

Answer: B - Weber's model emphasises legally defined competence, hierarchy, written files and impersonal recruitment and conduct.

Why the others fail: B, C and D contradict rational-legal bureaucracy.

Q43. Herbert Simon's bounded rationality means decision-makers:

A. Never use organisations	B. Choose without goals
C. Satisfice under limits of information and cognition	D. Always maximise with complete information

Answer: C - Because information, time and cognitive capacity are limited, actors often seek a satisfactory rather than globally optimal option.

Why the others fail: D assumes perfect rationality; A and B are not Simon's claim.

Q44. Riggs's prismatic model was designed to analyse:

A. The physics of light	B. Only mature market prices
C. Only judicial precedent	D. Administrative systems in transitional societies

Answer: D - Riggs used the prismatic model in comparative public administration to describe mixed and overlapping structures in transition.

Why the others fail: The remaining answers mistake its disciplinary purpose.

Q45. In Maslow's hierarchy, which need is placed before esteem and self-actualisation?

A. Post-material citizenship	B. Judicial review
C. Balance of power	D. Belongingness

Answer: D - Belongingness is placed after physiological and safety needs and before esteem in the conventional hierarchy.

Why the others fail: The other terms are not levels in Maslow's model.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Unit 10 - Governance and Public Policy

Five original questions aligned to the official unit themes.

Q46. A social audit primarily enables:

A. Automatic judicial appointment	B. Public verification of records, spending and implementation
C. Military command review	D. Secret budgeting without beneficiaries

Answer: B - Social audits open programme information to community scrutiny and compare official records with implementation.

Why the others fail: D is the opposite of transparency; A and C concern unrelated institutions.

Q47. The Right to Information framework most directly advances:

A. Suspension of grievance redress	B. Absolute official secrecy
C. Transparency and accountable administration	D. Hereditary public office

Answer: C - Access to records allows citizens to scrutinise decisions and public action, subject to statutory exemptions.

Why the others fail: B, A and C contradict the accountability purpose.

Q48. NITI Aayog was created through:

A. A Union Cabinet resolution	B. A treaty with states
C. A constitutional amendment	D. A Supreme Court decree

Answer: A - NITI Aayog is an executive policy institution established by Union Cabinet resolution in 2015.

Why the others fail: It is not a constitutional body, court creation or treaty body.

Q49. A citizen charter normally states:

A. Service standards, timelines and grievance channels	B. Only criminal penalties
C. Election results	D. Rules of parliamentary privilege

Answer: A - A citizen charter communicates what service users can expect and where failures can be challenged.

Why the others fail: The other items belong to different legal and political processes.

Q50. The Lokpal is designed principally to address allegations of:

A. Interstate river allocation only	B. Corruption involving specified public functionaries
C. Private family disputes	D. University admissions only

Answer: B - The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act creates an anti-corruption ombudsman framework for covered public functionaries.

Why the others fail: The other disputes fall outside its defining purpose.

Unit score: ____ / 5 Questions to revise: _____



Answer grid and revision tracker

Q	Key	My answer	Review date
1	B		
2	B		
3	C		
4	C		
5	A		
6	D		
7	B		
8	A		
9	B		
10	B		
11	C		
12	C		
13	D		
14	B		
15	C		
16	A		
17	A		
18	B		
19	C		
20	D		
21	D		
22	B		
23	C		
24	A		
25	A		
26	B		
27	C		
28	D		



Q	Key	My answer	Review date
29	D		
30	B		
31	C		
32	A		
33	A		
34	B		
35	C		
36	D		
37	D		
38	B		
39	C		
40	A		
41	A		
42	B		
43	C		
44	D		
45	D		
46	B		
47	C		
48	A		
49	A		
50	B		



Sources, scope and honest-use note

What this PDF is

An original practice set designed around the ten units named in the official UGC NET Political Science syllabus. Explanations were written for revision and checked for internal consistency.

What this PDF is not

It is not an NTA question paper, answer key, leaked paper or verbatim compilation of copyrighted coaching material. A question should be called a PYQ only when its official paper and key can be identified.

Official Political Science syllabus: https://ugcnetonline.in/NTA_All_R_Syllabus/02/Political%20Science_English.pdf

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