



ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU – 27

POLITICAL SCIENCE

PhD Entrance Examination- Syllabus-2026

Section-1: State, Sovereignty, and Nationhood

Concepts: Modern State, Sovereignty, Nation-State, Borders, Authority, Political Obligation

- Thomas Hobbes – *Leviathan* (State as absolute sovereign authority emerging from the social contract; necessity of order and security)
- Immanuel Kant – *Perpetual Peace* (Cosmopolitanism, international order, and moral foundations of sovereignty beyond borders)
- Max Weber – *Politics as a Vocation* (State as the entity with monopoly over legitimate use of violence)
- Benedict Anderson – *Imagined Communities* (Nation as a socially constructed and imagined political community)
- Michel Foucault – *Governmentality* (Shift from sovereign power to governance of populations—biopolitics and control)

Section-2: Citizenship and Political Membership

Concepts: Citizenship, Political Membership, Inclusion/Exclusion, Rights, Identity, Legal Status

- T. H. Marshall – *Citizenship and Social Class* (Evolution of civil, political, and social rights within the modern welfare state)
- Will Kymlicka – *Multicultural Citizenship* (Minority rights, group-differentiated citizenship, and liberal multiculturalism)
- Rogers Brubaker – *Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany* (Comparative analysis of civic vs ethnic models of citizenship and nationhood)
- Anupama Roy – *Mapping Citizenship in India* (Postcolonial citizenship, constitutionalism, exclusion, and contested belonging in India)

Section-3: Statelessness and the Right to Have Rights

Concepts: Statelessness, Legal Identity, Political Exclusion, Human Rights, Sovereignty, Bare Life

- Hannah Arendt – *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (“Right to have rights” — statelessness as the loss of political belonging and legal recognition)
- Giorgio Agamben – *Homo Sacer* (Bare life, state of exception, and exclusion from juridical-political order)
- Seyla Benhabib – *The Rights of Others* (Cosmopolitan norms, democratic iterations, and rights of migrants and refugees)
- Bridget Anderson – *Us and Them?* (Citizenship, migration control, and construction of “deserving” vs “undeserving” populations)
- Aihwa Ong – *Flexible Citizenship* (Neoliberal restructuring of citizenship and differentiated inclusion/exclusion)

Section-4: Migration, Forced Displacement, Borders and Boundaries

Concepts: Forced Migration, Refugees, Slavery and Indentured Labour, Borders, Territoriality, Mobility Regimes, Globalization, Political Subjectivity

- Stephen Castles – *The Age of Migration* (Global migration systems, forced displacement, and structural transformations in mobility)
- Peter Nyers – *Rethinking Refugees* (Refugees as political actors challenging sovereign power and citizenship regimes)
- Hugh Tinker – *A New System of Slavery* (Indentured labour as a continuation of slavery; colonial migration as coerced mobility)
- Sandro Mezzadra – *Border as Method* (Borders as productive sites shaping labour, mobility, and global inequalities)
- Thomas Nail – *The Figure of the Migrant* (Migration as a constitutive condition of political and social life; mobility as ontology)

Section-5: Identity, Recognition, Power, and Governmentality

- Charles Taylor – *The Politics of Recognition* (Recognition as a fundamental human need; identity formation through mutual acknowledgment)
- Axel Honneth – *The Struggle for Recognition* (Social conflicts as struggles for recognition shaping identity, dignity, and justice)

- Stuart Hall – *Cultural Identity and Diaspora (Identity as fluid, constructed, and shaped through historical and diasporic experiences)*
- Michel Foucault – *Society Must Be Defended (Biopower, governance of populations, and the shift from sovereignty to regulation of life)* Giorgio Agamben – *State of Exception (Suspension of law, normalization of emergency, and production of excluded lives)*
- Achille Mbembe – *Necropolitics (Power over life and death; extreme forms of domination and abandonment)*

Section-6: Justice, Democracy, and Postcolonial Citizenship

Concepts: Justice, Equality, Redistribution, Human Rights, Democracy, Liberalism, Participation, Marginalization, Colonialism, Postcolonial State, Marginalised Politics

- John Rawls – *A Theory of Justice (Justice as fairness; principles of equality, liberty, and redistribution)*
- Amartya Sen – *Development as Freedom (Freedom as development; expanding capabilities and substantive justice)*
- Martha Nussbaum – *Creating Capabilities (Human dignity, capability approach, and universal justice framework)*
- Robert Dahl – *Polyarchy (Democratic participation, contestation, and institutional pluralism)*
- Chantal Mouffe – *On the Political (Agonistic democracy; conflict as central to democratic politics)*
- Partha Chatterjee – *The Politics of the Governed (Distinction between civil society and political society; marginal populations and informal politics)*
- Frantz Fanon – *The Wretched of the Earth (Colonial violence, liberation, and formation of postcolonial political identity)*
- Mahmood Mamdani – *Citizen and Subject (Colonial legacy in shaping bifurcated citizenship and state power)*