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**PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY**

**Bengaluru**

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| **End - Term Examinations – JANUARY 2025** |
| Date: 07 – 01- 2025 Time: 01:00 pm – 04:00 pm |

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| **School:** SOL | **Program:** BA LL.B(Hons) |
| **Course Code :** BAL4003 | **Course Name :**MODERN POLITICAL THINKERS |
| **Semester:** III | **Max Marks:** 100 | **Weightage:** 50% |

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| **CO - Levels** | **CO1** | **CO2** | **CO3** | **CO4** |
| **Marks** | **20** | **28** | **17** | **35** |

**Instructions:**

1. *Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.*
2. *Do not write anything on the question paper other than roll number.*

**Part A**

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| **Answer ALL the Questions. Each question carries 2marks. 10Q x 2M=20M** |
| 1 | What are the key differences between Hobbes's and Rousseau’s views on the state of nature? | 2 Marks | L1 | CO2 |
| 2 | How does Kant’s concept of "categorical imperative" relate to his ideas about moral and political philosophy? | 2 Marks | L1 | CO2 |
| 3 | How does Hobbes justify the need for an absolute sovereign to escape the state of nature? | 2 Marks | L1 | CO3 |
| 4 | Define Mill’s Harm Principle. | 2 Marks | L1 | CO1 |
| 5 | How does Hobbes describe the state of nature in his political theory? | 2 Marks | L1 | CO1 |
| 6 | Why did Leo Strauss famously refer to Machiavelli as the "teacher of evil"? | 2 Marks | L1 | CO2 |
| 7 | Define Niccolò Machiavelli’s concept of fortune. | 2 Marks | L1 | CO1 |
| 8 | What does the term "Tabula Rasa" mean in empirical ontology? | 2 Marks | L1 | CO2 |
| 9 | Which theory of state does John Locke challenge in his *First Treatise on Government*? | 2 Marks | L1 | CO1 |
| 10 | What does Rousseau mean by his statement, "Man was born free, and he is everywhere in chains"? | 2 Marks | L1 | CO1 |

 **Part B**

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| **Answer the Questions** **Total 80 Marks** |
| 11. | a. | Analyze how Locke's theory of consent transforms the traditional social contract argument into a basis for distinguishing legitimate from illegitimate political authority. | 10Marks | L2 | CO1 |
| or |
| 12. | a. | Describe the life and legacy of Niccolò Machiavelli in political philosophy. | 10Marks | L2 | C01 |
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| 13. | a. | Critically evaluate J.S. Mill’s qualitative method of measuring happiness. Discuss its strengths and limitations  | . 5+5= 10Marks | L2 | CO2 |
| Or |
| 14. | a. | Analyze what role of fear play in Hobbes’s political theory. How fear motived individuals to enter into a social contract | 5+5= 10Marks | L2 | CO2 |

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| 15. | a. | Critically analyze the fundamental differences between rationalist and empiricist approaches to knowledge acquisition. Using specific philosophers' arguments, examine how these contrasting epistemological methods lead to different conclusions about the nature of reality. | 5+5= 10Marks | L3 | CO2 |
| Or |
| 16. | a. | Compare Hobbes's conception of natural rights with his theory of absolute sovereignty. How does he reconcile individual rights with the unlimited power of the sovereign? | 5+5= 10Marks | L3 | CO2 |

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| 17. | a. | Explain Kant's ethical theory, focusing on his categorical imperative that humans should never be treated merely as means to an end. Using specific examples, analyze how treating human dignity as an end in itself is fundamental to preventing human rights violations. Evaluate the practical implications of Kant's principle that each person has intrinsic worth that cannot be sacrificed for greater ends. | 10+5=15Marks | L3 | CO3 |
| Or |
| 18. | a. | Using contemporary examples from both democratic and authoritarian states, evaluate how different interpretations of the social contract theory remain relevant in explaining state-citizen relationships today. Apply the key arguments of Hobbes, or Locke, or Rousseau to analyze specific cases where governments either fulfill or violate their theoretical obligations under the social contract. | 10+5=15Marks | L3 | CO3 |

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| 19. | a. | Analyze Bentham’s quantitative method for measuring happiness. What is the implications of method for moral and legal decision-making? Demonstrate how government schemes are shape by the rationale of greatest-benefit of greatest number.  | 7+5+3=15Marks | L4 | CO4 |
| Or |
| 20. | a. | Critically analyze Rousseau's claim that 'man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains.' How does his account of human nature and historical development explain the transformation from natural freedom to social bondage? | 10+5=15Marks | L4 | CO4 |

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| 21. | a. | Using Mill's harm principle, assess whether the government's surveillance of digital communications can be justified to prevent potential security threats. | 10+10=20Marks | L4 | CO4 |
| Or |
| 22. | a. | Critically analyze Machiavelli's argument that political leaders must prioritize effectiveness over conventional morality. To what extent does his separation of political and moral virtues remain relevant for understanding contemporary leadership? | (10+10) 20Marks | L4 | CO4 |

\*\*\*\*\* BEST WISHES \*\*\*\*\*