

**PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY****BENGALURU****Mid - Term Examinations - October 2025****Date:** 10-10-2025**Time:** 02.00pm to 03.30pm

School: SOL	Program: BA LLB (Honors)	
Course Code: BAL4003	Course Name: Modern Political Thinkers	
Semester: III	Max Marks: 50	Weightage: 25%

CO - Levels	CO1	CO2	CO3	CO4	CO5
Marks	20	30			

Instructions:

- (i) *Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.*
- (ii) *Do not write anything on the question paper other than roll number.*

Part A**Answer ALL the Questions. Each question carries 2marks.****5Q x 2M=10M**

1	What is the two-sword doctrine?	2 Marks	L1	CO1
2	What is the reason of state?	2 Marks	L1	CO1
3	How Machiavelli distinguished between individual and state morality?	2 Marks	L1	CO1
4	What were the primary causes of the Protestant Reformation in Europe?	2 Marks	L1	CO1
5	How did the Peace of Westphalia establish the principle of state sovereignty?	2 Marks	L1	CO1

Part B**Answer the Questions.****Total Marks 40M**

6.	Write a note on medieval political theory and its key features.	10 Marks	L1	CO1
Or				
7.	How did the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 solidify the nation-state as a modern European idea, and what were its immediate impacts on European politics?	10 Marks	L1	CO1

8.	How did the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg influence the spread of ideas during the Reformation and the broader Modern Era?	10 Marks	L2	CO2
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Or

9.	In what ways did contact with Middle Eastern intellectuals through the Crusades and Andalusian scholars in Muslim Spain facilitate the flow of scientific knowledge into Europe?	10 Marks	L2	CO2
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10.	Scenario: In a country facing a surge of violent crime and terrorist attacks, the government imposes strict surveillance laws: 24/7 monitoring of phone calls, internet usage, and public spaces. Civil society protests, claiming this violates fundamental freedoms, but many citizens argue that safety is more important than privacy. Question: Using Hobbes's theory of the social contract, evaluate whether such restrictions on liberty are justified. Why, according to Hobbes, might citizens willingly accept surveillance? What dangers arise if the state uses fear to maintain obedience?	10 Marks (2+3+5)	L3	CO2
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Or

11.	Scenario: In a democracy, the ruling government increasingly ignores parliamentary oversight, suppresses opposition voices, and manipulates elections. Citizens begin to question whether the government still represents their consent. Questions: Using John Locke's theory of the social contract, explain when and why people are justified in resisting or overthrowing a government. How does Locke's emphasis on natural rights—life, liberty, and property—shape the legitimacy of rebellion in this scenario?	10 Marks (5+5)	L3	CO2
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12.	Analyze Immanuel Kant's 1784 essay 'What is Enlightenment?' Why did he argue that enlightenment occurs when individuals and society emerge from a state of non-age (immaturity)?	10 Marks (5+5)	L4	CO2
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Or

13.	Critically compare Machiavelli's The Prince and Discourses on Livy. How do the two works differ in their approach to power, leadership, and republicanism? What do these differences reveal about Machiavelli's overall political philosophy?	10 Marks (3+3+4)	L4	CO2
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