Roll No.												

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU

End - Term Examinations –December 2025

Date: 20 / 12/ 2025 **Time: 09:30am – 12:30pm**

School: LAW	**Program: BALLB (Hons)**	
Course Code : BAL 4003	**Course Name :MODERN POLITICAL THINKERS**	
Semester: 3RD	**Max Marks:100**	**Weightage:50%**

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

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. 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

Answer the Questions **Total 80 Marks**

11.	Discuss J.S. Mill's four methods for isolating causes from phenomena. Provide examples to illustrate the relevance of these methods in scientific research.	**10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO1**

Or

12.	Describe the life and legacy of Karl Marx in political philosophy.	**10 Marks**	**L2**	**C01**

13.	Explain the main idea behind Hegel's dialectical method. What does Hegel mean by the process of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis?	**5+5= 10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO2**

Or

14.	Explain why Hegel calls the state the realization of the ethical idea and the embodiment of true freedom.	**5+5= 10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO2**

15.	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= 10 Marks**	**L3**	**CO2**

Or

16.	**Scenario:** A government agency decides to monitor private citizens' communications to prevent terrorism. While the intention is public safety, it violates individuals' right to privacy. **Question**: Applying Kant's moral philosophy, analyze whether such surveillance can ever be morally justified. Would Kant argue that violating individual autonomy for collective security contradicts the very principle of treating humanity as an end in itself?	**5+5= 10 Marks**	**L3**	**CO2**

17.	**Scenario**: A technology company uses citizens' personal health data to create an AI system that predicts disease outbreaks. The project saves thousands of lives but violates individual privacy rights. **Question**: From a Utilitarian perspective, can breaching privacy be morally justified if it leads to a greater public good? How does the principle of "the greatest happiness for the greatest number" apply in this ethical dilemma?	**10+5= 15 Marks**	**L3**	**C O3**

Or

18.	**Scenario:** A government installs nationwide facial-recognition cameras to prevent terrorism and ensure public safety. Citizens argue that it invades privacy and chills dissent. **Question:** Applying Hobbes's and Locke's theories of the social contract, analyze whether such surveillance can be justified. How far can the state limit liberty in the name of security before it violates its contract with citizens?	**10+5=15 Marks**	**L3**	**CO3**

19.	**Scenario:** During a pandemic, the government imposes strict curfews and bans public gatherings without parliamentary approval, arguing that delay would endanger lives. **Question:** Using Locke's concept of consent and limited government, evaluate whether such emergency powers uphold or violate the principles of the social contract.	**7+5+3= 15 Marks**	**L4**	**CO4**

Or

20.	**Scenario**: A democratic government introduces a wealth tax on the richest 1% to fund universal healthcare and education. Critics claim it's an attack on individual property rights. **Question**: From the perspective of Rousseau's "general will," discuss whether the wealth tax reflects the collective moral will of society or the tyranny of the majority.	**10+5= 15 Marks**	**L4**	**CO4**

21.	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+10= 20 Marks**	**L4**	**CO4**

Or

22.	Analyze the fundamental differences between Rousseau's and Marx's diagnoses of what prevents the realization of an ideal state—Rousseau's emphasis on moral corruption and inequality versus Marx's focus on economic exploitation and alienation. How do these differing diagnoses lead to distinct political and social remedies in their respective theories?	**(10+10) 20 Marks**	**L4**	**CO4**

***** BEST WISHES *****