

P.G. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2022**PHILOSOPHY**

Time : Two Hours

Maximum : 100 Marks

1. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below it.

Locke's political theory, like Hobbes's, is a theory of the Ideal State, but it differs fundamentally in being a moral theory. While Hobbes thought that the Ideal State is ideal in a rational sense, Locke thinks that it is ideal in a moral sense. His theory is based on the assumption that there is a Law of Nature, and that this Law is of a specifically moral character. He consequently conceives of the Ideal State as a morally ideal state.

Locke, however, makes no attempt to justify the assumption that there is a basic moral law of this sort beyond asserting that it is self-evident:

“The state of Nature has a law of Nature to govern it, which obliges every one, and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions; for men being all the workmanship of one omnipotent and infinitely Wise Maker; all the servants of one sovereign Master, sent into the world by His order and about His business; they are His property, whose workmanship they are made to last during His, not one another's, pleasure” .1

He subsequently refers to the Law of Nature as the 'will of God.

From the start, therefore, Locke's approach to political theory differs fundamentally from that of Hobbes. Hobbes regarded man as a being activated by desire and endowed with a rational faculty capable of showing him how his desires can be most fully satisfied. Locke, on the other hand, regards the individual as a being whose reason reveals an independent law prescribing moral standards to which he ought at all timesto conform. Hobbes, in short, regards man as a rational but a moral being, while Locke regards him as essentially moral.

Locke's theory conforms much more closely to the tacit assumptions of the majority of people both in his day and ours, but he does not justify the dogmatic assumptions which he makes about the Law of Nature and what it prescribes. He seems to regard these assumptions as self-evidently true, and to those who agree with him on this point his general theory may appear adequate. But it is unlikely to satisfy those who deny the existence of an independent moral law, or differ from him in their view of what that law prescribes.

- 1) On what count Locke's political theory differs from that of Hobbes ?
- 2) How, according to Locke, man is used to behave in state of Nature ?
- 3) What is the major shortcoming seen in the claim of Locke with regard to human nature ?
- 4) What, according to Hobbes, animates human behaviour ?

(20 marks)

Turn over

2. Explain briefly the following *four* :

- 1) End justifies the means.
- 2) Nonviolence as a political weapon.
- 3) Four noble truths.
- 4) Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains.

(20 marks)

3. Write short notes on the following :

- 1) Enlightenment.
- 2) Postmodernism.
- 3) Epistemology.
- 4) Dialectical materialism.

(20 marks)

4. Write short notes on the views of the following *four* thinkers :

- 1) Swami Vivekananda.
- 2) Plato.
- 3) Hegel.
- 4) Adi Sankara.

(20 marks)

5. Write short essays on the following *two* :

- 1) Positivists often use the term 'objective'. What do they mean by that ? Could a person be objective about literature, or morality, in this sense ?
- 2) Critically discuss the human right issues created by lockdown imposed by the governments in the wake of covid 19 pandemic.

(20 marks)