



DRISHTI IAS

DRISHTI IAS MAINS TEST SERIES 2023

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (Optional Subject)

Available in **English** and **Hindi Medium**

STARTING : 8TH JANUARY 2023

Total 16 Tests

12 Sectional Tests

4 Full Syllabus Tests

Available in **Online** and **Offline** Mode

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Salient Features

- The language-style and nature of the questions are in line with the questions asked by the Union Public Service Commission and based on deep understanding and knowledge.
- The topics asked in the question are based on the important and relevant topics asked by the Union Public Service Commission which will be directly and indirectly helpful in the main examination.
- Simple and effective presentation of model answers with interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.
- Emphasis on preparing better answers through illustrations, examples, graphic analysis, pie charts etc. required in answer writing by adopting scientific approach.
- Use of only standard books and sources during model answer writing.
- As far as possible adherence to the standards prescribed by the Union Public Service Commission in the evaluation process of answer sheets.
- Necessary interval between each test for proper preparation.
- Formulation of model answers within the word limit prescribed by the Union Public Service Commission.

Test Code	Date	Syllabus
Test-1 OPT-PSIR-2301	8 January, 2023 (Sunday)	Western Political Thought
Test-2 OPT-PSIR-2302	15 January, 2023 (Sunday)	Political Ideologies, Theories of State; Concept of power, Legitimacy, Democracy, Equality, Affirmative action Justice, Rights
Test-3 OPT-PSIR-2303	29 January, 2023 (Sunday)	Indian Political Thought
Test-4 OPT-PSIR-2304	12 February, 2023 (Sunday)	Indian Nationalism, Perspectives on Indian National Movement, Making of the Indian Constitution, Salient Features of the Indian Constitution; Principal Organs of the Union Government, Principal Organs of the State Government, Grassroots Democracy, Federalism, Constitutional and Statutory Institutions/Commissions, Social Movement; Planning and Economic development, Party System
Test-5 OPT-PSIR-2305	26 February, 2023 (Sunday)	Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics, Comparative Politics, State in Comparative Perspective, Politics of Representation and Participation, Globalization: Approaches to the Study of International Relations, Key Concepts in International Relations, Contemporary Global Concerns
Test-6 OPT-PSIR-2306	12 March, 2023 (Sunday)	Changing International Political Order, Nonaligned Movement, Evolution of the International Economic System, United Nations, Regionalization of World Politics; India and the World, Indian Foreign Policy, Continuity and change, India and South Asia, Impediments to regional co-operation, India and the Global South; India and the Global Centers of Power, India and the UN System, India and the Nuclear Question, Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy
Test-7 OPT-PSIR-2307	11 June, 2023 (Sunday)	Western Political Thought

*For detailed breakup of syllabus, kindly refer to the subsequent pages.



Test Code	Date	Syllabus
Test-8 OPT-PSIR-2308	18 June, 2023 (Sunday)	Political Ideologies, Theories of State; Concept of power, Legitimacy, Democracy, Equality, Affirmative action Justice, Rights
Test-9 OPT-PSIR-2309	25 June, 2023 (Sunday)	Indian Political Thought
Test-10 OPT-PSIR-2310	2 July, 2023 (Sunday)	Indian Nationalism, Perspectives on Indian National Movement, Making of the Indian Constitution, Salient Features of the Indian Constitution; Principal Organs of the Union Government, Principal Organs of the State Government, Grassroots Democracy, Federalism, Constitutional and Statutory Institutions/Commissions, Social Movement; Planning and Economic development, Party System
Test-11 OPT-PSIR-2311	9 July, 2023 (Sunday)	Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics, Comparative Politics, State in Comparative Perspective, Politics of Representation and Participation, Globalization: Approaches to the Study of International Relations, Key Concepts in International Relations, Contemporary Global Concerns
Test-12 OPT-PSIR-2312	16 July, 2023 (Sunday)	Changing International Political Order, Nonaligned Movement, Evolution of the International Economic System, United Nations, Regionalization of World Politics; India and the World, Indian Foreign Policy, Continuity and change, India and South Asia, Impediments to regional co-operation, India and the Global South; India and the Global Centers of Power, India and the UN System, India and the Nuclear Question, Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy
Test-13 OPT-PSIR-2313	13 August, 2023 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-I
Test-14 OPT-PSIR-2314		Full Length Paper-II
Test-15 OPT-PSIR-2315	27 August, 2023 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-I
Test-16 OPT-PSIR-2316		Full Length Paper-II



Test Schedule

Test Code	Test Date	Subject
Test-1 OPT-PSIR-2301	8 January, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Political Thought: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.
Test-2 OPT-PSIR-2302	15 January, 2023 (Sunday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Political Theory: meaning and approaches. Theories of state: Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, post-colonial, and Feminist. Justice: Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques. Equality: Social, political, and economic; the relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action. Rights: Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; Concept of Human Rights. Democracy: Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy—representative, participatory and deliberative. Concept of power: hegemony, ideology, and legitimacy. Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism, and Feminism.
Test-3 OPT-PSIR-2303	29 January, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Political Thought: Dharmashastra, Arthashastra, and Buddhist Traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M.K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, M.N. Roy.
Test-4 OPT-PSIR-2304	12 February, 2023 (Sunday)	<p style="text-align: center;">Indian Government and Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Nationalism: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle: Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience; Militant and Revolutionary Movements, Peasant and Workers Movements. Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Liberal, Socialist, and Marxist; Radical Humanist and Dalit. Making of the Indian Constitution: Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives. Salient Features of the Indian Constitution: The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Organs of the Union Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature, and Supreme Court. Principal Organs of the State Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature, and High Courts.



		<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Grassroots Democracy: Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; Significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroot movements.6. Statutory Institutions/Commissions: Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Finance Commission, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women; National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Minorities, National Backward Classes Commission.7. Federalism: Constitutional provisions; changing nature of center-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.8. Planning and Economic Development: Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; Role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and economic reforms.9. Caste, Religion, and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.10. Party System: National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; Patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behavior; changing socio-economic profile of Legislators.11. Social Movement: Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements.
<p>Test-5 OPT-PSIR-2305</p>	<p>26 February, 2023 (Sunday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; Political economy and political sociology perspectives; Limitations of the comparative method.2. State in Comparative Perspective: Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and advanced industrial and developing societies.3. Politics of Representation and Participation: Political parties, pressure groups, and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.4. Globalization: Responses from developed and developing societies.5. Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.6. Key Concepts in International Relations: National interest, security, and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalization.7. Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice terrorism, nuclear proliferation.

<p>Test-6 OPT-PSIR-2306</p>	<p>12 March, 2023 (Sunday)</p>	<p>India and the World</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing International Political Order: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Rise of superpowers; Strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and cold war; Nuclear threat; (b) Non-aligned Movement: Aims and achievements. (c) The collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; Relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world. 2. Evolution of the International Economic System: From Bretton Woods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Third World demand for new international economic order; Globalization of the world economy. 3. United Nations: Envisaged role and actual record; Specialized UN agencies—aims and functioning; the need for UN reforms. 4. Regionalisation of World Politics: EU, ASEAN, APEC, AARC, NAFTA. 5. Indian Foreign Policy: Determinants of foreign policy; the institutions of policy-making; Continuity and change. 6. India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement Different phases; Current role. 7. India and South Asia: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Regional Cooperation: SAARC-past performance and future prospects. (b) South Asia as a Free Trade Area. (c) India's Look East policy. (d) Impediments to regional cooperation: River water disputes; illegal cross-border migration; Ethnic conflicts and insurgencies; Border disputes. 8. India and the Global South: Relations with Africa and Latin America; Leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations. 9. India and the Global Centres of Power: USA, EU, Japan, China, and Russia. 10. India and the UN System: Role in UN Peace-keeping; Demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council. 11. India and the Nuclear Question: Changing perceptions and policy. 12. Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy: India's position on the recent crises in Afghanistan, Iraq, and West Asia, growing relations with US and Israel; Vision of new world order.
<p>Test-7 OPT-PSIR-2307</p>	<p>11 June, 2023 (Sunday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Western Political Thought: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.



<p>Test-8 OPT-PSIR-2308</p>	<p>18 June, 2023 (Sunday)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political Theory: meaning and approaches. 2. Theories of state: Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, post-colonial, and Feminist. 3. Justice: Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl’s theory of justice and its communitarian critiques. 4. Equality: Social, political, and economic; the relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action. 5. Rights: Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; Concept of Human Rights. 6. Democracy: Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy—representative, participatory and deliberative. 7. Concept of power: hegemony, ideology, and legitimacy. Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism, and Feminism.
<p>Test-9 OPT-PSIR-2309</p>	<p>25 June, 2023 (Sunday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indian Political Thought: Dharmashastra, Arthashastra, and Buddhist Traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M. K. Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar, M. N. Roy.
<p>Test-10 OPT-PSIR-2310</p>	<p>2 July, 2023 (Sunday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; Political economy and political sociology perspectives; Limitations of the comparative method. 2. State in Comparative Perspective: Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and advanced industrial and developing societies. 3. Politics of Representation and Participation: Political parties, pressure groups, and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies. 4. Globalization: Responses from developed and developing societies. 5. Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory. 6. Key Concepts in International Relations: National interest, security, and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalization. 7. Changing International Political Order: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Rise of superpowers; Strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and cold war; Nuclear threat; (b) Non-aligned Movement: Aims and achievements. (c) The collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; Relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world.

		<p>8. Evolution of the International Economic System: From Bretton Woods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Third World demand for new international economic order; Globalization of the world economy.</p> <p>9. United Nations: Envisaged role and actual record; Specialized UN agencies—aims and functioning; the need for UN reforms.</p> <p>10. Regionalisation of World Politics: EU, ASEAN, APEC, AARC, NAFTA.</p> <p>11. Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice terrorism, nuclear proliferation.</p>
<p>Test-11 OPT-PSIR-2311</p>	<p>9 July, 2023 (Sunday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics</p> <p>1. Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; Political economy and political sociology perspectives; Limitations of the comparative method.</p> <p>2. State in Comparative Perspective: Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and advanced industrial and developing societies.</p> <p>3. Politics of Representation and Participation: Political parties, pressure groups, and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.</p> <p>4. Globalization: Responses from developed and developing societies.</p> <p>5. Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.</p> <p>6. Key Concepts in International Relations: National interest, security, and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalization.</p> <p>7. Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice terrorism, nuclear proliferation.</p>
<p>Test-12 OPT-PSIR-2312</p>	<p>16 July, 2023 (Sunday)</p>	<p>India and the World</p> <p>1. Changing International Political Order:</p> <p>(a) Rise of superpowers; Strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and cold war; Nuclear threat;</p> <p>(b) Non-aligned Movement: Aims and achievements.</p> <p>(c) The collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; Relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world.</p> <p>2. Evolution of the International Economic System: From Bretton Woods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Third World demand for new international economic order; Globalization of the world economy.</p>



		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. United Nations: Envisaged role and actual record; Specialized UN agencies—aims and functioning; the need for UN reforms. 4. Regionalisation of World Politics: EU, ASEAN, APEC, AARC, NAFTA. 5. Indian Foreign Policy: Determinants of foreign policy; the institutions of policy-making; Continuity and change. 6. India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement Different phases; Current role. 7. India and South Asia: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Regional Cooperation: SAARC-past performance and future prospects. (b) South Asia as a Free Trade Area. (c) India's Look East policy. (d) Impediments to regional cooperation: River water disputes; illegal cross-border migration; Ethnic conflicts and insurgencies; Border disputes. 8. India and the Global South: Relations with Africa and Latin America; Leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations. 9. India and the Global Centres of Power: USA, EU, Japan, China, and Russia. 10. India and the UN System: Role in UN Peace-keeping; Demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council. 11. India and the Nuclear Question: Changing perceptions and policy. 12. Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy: India's position on the recent crises in Afghanistan, Iraq, and West Asia, growing relations with US and Israel; Vision of new world order.
Test-13 OPT-PSIR-2313	13 August, 2023 (Sunday)	● Full Length Paper-I
Test-14 OPT-PSIR-2314		● Full Length Paper-II
Test-15 OPT-PSIR-2315	27 August, 2023 (Sunday)	● Full Length Paper-I
Test-16 OPT-PSIR-2316		● Full Length Paper-II

UPSC (2022) & Drishti Mains Test Series (PSIR Optional) Comparative Analysis

Paper 1

Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks
2206	3 (c)	Elaborate the Systems Theory with the various approaches proposed by Kaplan.	1 (a)	Systems Approach	10
2202	1 (c)	Define the characteristics of Neo-liberalism.	2 (a)	Factors like community, culture and nation weaken the hegemony of Neo-liberalism today. Discuss.	20
2202	5 (c)	What do You mean by Original Position of Rawls?"	4 (a)	Dr. Ambedkar's idea of social justice leads to 'egalitarian justice' as compared to Rawls 'justice as fairness' which aims at the notion of 'pure procedural justice'. Comment.	20
2203	2 (a)	How does Ambedkar ensure social justice through India constitution?			
2204	8 (c)	Critically evaluate the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act that establishes democracy at the Grassroots.	4 (b)	"The Panchayats with Gram Sabhas should be so organised as to identify the resources locally available for the development in agricultural and industrial sectors". Examine the statement in the context of Gram Swaraj.	15
2211	5 (c)	Discuss the Neo-liberal theory of justice.	4 (c)	Examine the entitlement theory of justice.	15
2205	5 (c)	Discuss Workers' movement in India.	5 (a)	Analyse the workers' movement in India in the pre-Independence period.	10
2209	1 (e)	Critically evaluate the 73rd Amendment Act of the Indian constitution.	7 (a)	Examine the unique features of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. Do you think this Amendment would contribute in achieving the goal of empowerment of marginalised section of the society?	20

UPSC (2022) & Drishti Mains Test Series (PSIR Optional) Comparative Analysis

Paper 2

Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks
2205	1 (b)	Discuss the negative impacts of Globalization on the internal functioning of the state."	1 (b)	What are the challenges faced by the developing countries in the era of Globalization?	10
2205	2 (a)	Examine liberal and Marxist perspectives of state in contemporary political theory.	1 (c)	Discuss the commonalities between the Marxist and Realist approach to the study of International Politics.	10
2206	5 (a)	Identify the basic assumptions of realism in the theory of international relations.			
2212	1 (a)	Discuss the fundamental assumptions of Realism.			

2206	1 (b)	● Comment upon the Polarity of Power Thesis.	1 (d)	● Bipolar structure of the world is more stable than the multipolar one. Comment.	10
2206	5 (c)	● Analyze the theory of national interest.			
2210	7 (a)	● National interest is the prime objective of the foreign policy of a nation; however, it is very dynamic in nature. In the light of this statement assess the dynamic nature of national interest in contemporary world politics.	1 (e)	● National interest is an essentially contested concept. Comment.	10
2212	1 (c)	● National interest is the prime concern while devising the foreign policy of a state. Comment.			
2205	7 (b)	● Discuss role of Civil Society in New Social Movement.	2 (b)	● Discuss the role of social movements in strengthening the democratic processes in developing societies.	15
2212	5 (d)	● Comment: International Court of Justice.	2 (c)	● Describe the composition of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Discuss its voluntary jurisdiction.	15
2207	2 (a)	● With its growing economy and geopolitical edge, China is poised to become a superpower. Analyze.	3 (a)	● Critically examine the rise of People's Republic of China (PRC) as a great power and its implications on Asian Political order.	20
2208	5 (d)	● China as a rising superpower.			
2206	3 (b)	● Discuss Collective Security and Collective Defense. State which strategy is best suited for contemporary times.	3 (b)	● Discuss the conceptual dimensions of collective security.	15
2207	7 (a)	● Collective security of the world is possible by having a UNSC which is accommodative of the interest of Asian, African and South American countries. Examine.			
2206	2 (a)	● Despite so much devastation caused by Terrorism, there is no common consensus on it. Discuss the underlying causes and its solution.	3 (c)	● Discuss the efficacy of global conventions to combat international terrorism.	15
2207	4 (c)	● Discuss the emerging challenges of the changing world order and how they are impacting the whole world?	4 (b)	● What is the realist prescription to the states to ensure their survival in an anarchial world?	15
2208	4 (a)	● Discuss the fallouts of the recent Russia-Ukraine war. How does it mark a shift in the current Global World order?	4 (c)	● The Russia-Ukraine crisis has cast a dark shadow on the energy needs of the member states of the European Union (EU). Comment.	15
2212	1 (b)	● Write a note on Non-proliferation Treaty.	6 (c)	● Discuss the reasons behind India's refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).	15
2208	6 (c)	● India and Japan are natural partners with great engagement across trade, technology, infrastructure development, and collective security. Discuss in the light of recent India-Japan summit.	7 (a)	● What are the main drivers of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership?	20
2207	6 (a)	● Analyze India's demand for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council. What is the position of major players on the expansion of UNSC vis-a-vis India?	7 (c)	● Explain the factors which justify India's claim for a permanent seat at the UN security council.	15
2210	4 (a)	● Justify India's demand for permanent membership in UN Security Council.			