



Drishti IAS

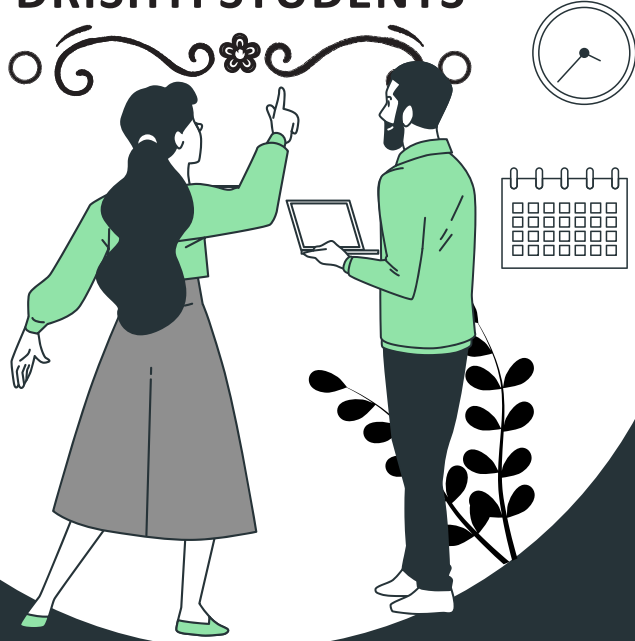
PACKAGE-II

DRISHTI IAS MAINS TEST SERIES 2024

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Optional Subject)

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FOR
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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 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, etc. required in answer writing by adopting scientific approach.
- Use of only standard books and sources during model answer writing.
- Necessary interval between each test for proper preparation.

Test Code	Date	Syllabus
Test-1 OPT-PSIR-2401	17 December, 2023 (Sunday)	Western Political Thought
Test-2 OPT-PSIR-2402	24 December, 2023 (Sunday)	Political Ideologies, Theories of State; Concept of power, Legitimacy, Democracy, Equality, Affirmative action Justice, Rights
Test-3 OPT-PSIR-2403	7 January, 2024 (Sunday)	Indian Political Thought
Test-4 OPT-PSIR-2404	21 January, 2024 (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-2405	4 February, 2024 (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-2406	18 February, 2024 (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

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



Test Schedule

Test Code	Test Date	Subject
Test-1 OPT-PSIR-2401	17 December, 2023 (Sunday)	● Western Political Thought: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.
Test-2 OPT-PSIR-2402	24 December, 2023 (Sunday)	<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.8. Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism, and Feminism.
Test-3 OPT-PSIR-2403	7 January, 2024 (Sunday)	● 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-2404	21 January, 2024 (Sunday)	<p style="text-align: center;">Indian Government and Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Indian Nationalism:<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle: Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience; Militant and Revolutionary Movements, Peasant and Workers Movements.(b) Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Liberal, Socialist, and Marxist; Radical Humanist and Dalit.2. Making of the Indian Constitution: Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.3. 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"> 4. (a) Principal Organs of the Union Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature, and Supreme Court. (b) Principal Organs of the State Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature, and High Courts. 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-2405</p>	<p>4 February, 2024 (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-2406</p>	<p>18 February, 2024 (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.
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UPSC (2023) & 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
2308	3(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguish between Empirical and Normative approach to the study of politics. 	1. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normative Approach in Political Science. 	10
2313	3(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically examine the multi-culturalism perspective of rights. Does it hold true in an Indian Context? 	1. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multicultural perspective on rights. 	10
2301	8(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Man is neither a social animal nor a political animal, but only an isolated beast” Discuss this Hobbesian statement. 	1. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of Nature as State of War (Hobbes). 	10
2307 2315	8(a) 4(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give a comparative account of power in theories of Gramsci and Foucault. “Power is everywhere” and “comes from everywhere” Explain with reference to Foucault’s theory of Power. 	1 (d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foucault's concept of power . 	10
2308	4(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political theory has a long tradition, spreading over two and a half millenniums. However, the exponentsof new political science began to question the continued relevance of traditional political theory.Discuss. 	1(e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline of political theory . 	10
2315	4(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss: Rawls “Theory of Justice” and various criticisms associated with it. 	2(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rawls' idea of the liberal self' is too individualistic. Explain, in this context, the communitarian critique of Rawls' theory of justice. 	15
2313	2(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Nothing above the state, nothing against the state, nothing outside the state” encapsulate the core principles and ideology of Fascism. Discuss. 	3(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fascism displays an ambivalent stance towards parliamentary democracy. Explain. 	20

2302	5(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the changing discourse of Affirmative action, as a means to attain equality. 	3 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affirmative Action Policies draw as much strong criticism as strong support. Analyze this statement in the context of equality. 	15
2311	8(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "What are key principles and concepts of Post Colonialism Theory? Examine the effects of neocolonialism on African economies?" 	3(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eurocentrism is both the target and the motive force of the post-colonial political theory. Discuss. 	15
2307	7(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "John Stuart Mill was a champion of women rights. Drawing inspiration from his essay on "The subjection of women", comment on his advocacy for women rights." 	4 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The legal subordination of one sex to another is wrong in itself, and now one of the chief hindrances to human development." (J. S. Mill). Comment. 	15
2309	2(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment on Sri Aurobindo's vision of spiritual nationalism. How did he view spirituality and its relationship with the idea of a nation? 	4(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sri Aurobindo's idea of Swaraj has deep significance in the Indian social, political and cultural history. Analyze. 	15
2315	8(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how the legacy of the British Rule forms the foundation of the Constitution of India and influences its structure. 	5(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imprint of the British Constitution on the Indian Constitution. 	10
2303	3(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gandhi with his personal and historical experiences delineated his departure from passive resistance and proposed the idea of satyagraha. Discuss the difference between the two in the words of Gandhi. 	5 (d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satyagraha and Indian Nationalism. 	10
2313	5(e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the role of National Minority Commission in ensuring full protection of minority rights as well as harmony in India's multicultural society. 	5 (e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Commission for Minorities. 	10
2304	2(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74th Constitutional amendment is half-baked. In this context, discuss the desired changes to realize the envisaged goal of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act 1992. 	6(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the major provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. Do you think that the Act remains an 'unfulfilled dream'? Argue your case. 	20
2304	3(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the essential ingredients of the political horoscope of the Indian constitution 	6(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Constitution of India is the 'cornerstone of a nation'. (Granville Austin). Analyze. 	15
2310	2(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment on the mechanism of cooperation, conflict, and competition in Indian federalism. 	7(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the actual working of Indian federalism conform to the centralizing tendencies in Indian polity? Give reasons for your answer. 	

2304	5(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the legal provisions for the implementation of fundamental duties. 	7 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main goal of the Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution is to generate civic responsibility among the citizens. Explain. 	15
2310	4(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what degree can it be argued that in India, people prioritize voting based on their caste affiliation rather than casting their vote on other considerations? Support your explanation with reference to two general elections. 	8(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rise of caste politics is to be attributed to both regional aspirations and electoral manifestations. Comment. 	20
2310 2310	1(c) 1(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment: "More than coalition, we need coalition ethics." Examine the factors leading to the fragmentation of party system in India. 	8 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decade 1989-1999 has created an epochal shift in the Indian party system at the national level. Identify the major national trends in the party system during this era. 	15
Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks
Paper 2					
Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks
2311	8(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Coparcenary rights to daughters in Hindu Undivided Family is a corrective step to end gender based discrimination in India." Discuss. 	1 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the crucial functions of empirical political theory in Comparative Politics ? 	10
2316	2(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political scientists were in their ivory towers perfecting their methodology unconcerned with the normative and relevant issues that had arisen." Discuss in context of traditional comparative politics. 	1(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the difficulties faced by a political theorist in comparing the States? 	10
2316	4(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss: Only reformed multilateralism with a reformed United Nations Security Council at its Centre can meet the aspirations of humanity. 	1(e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the structure and functions of UN Security Council. 	10
2312	2(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Alignment has been the basic principle of India's foreign policy since independence. Discuss its relevance in the present context. 	2 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the relevance of the normative ethos of the Non-Aligned Movement in magnifying India's soft power in pursuit of her national Interest. 	20

2305	5(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss functionalist approach to the study of international relations. 	2(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In what ways does the functionalist approach in International relations help in maintaining peace and order in global politics? 	15
2312	1(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment: Myanmar serves as the crucial lynchpin of India's Act East Policy. 	2(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How does the regime change and political crisis in Myanmar threaten regional security and peace? 	15
2305	6(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do you evaluate gender discrimination in the context of female foeticide? 	3 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Narrate the various ways in which rapid environmental degradation is posing a serious threat to human security. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. 	15
2311	6(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring out the major differences and similarities between Defensive Realism of Kenneth Waltz and Offensive Realism of John Mearsheimer. 	4(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do you mean by offensive and defensive realism? 	15
2312	4(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Critical examine the decline of the United States of America as a hegemon in rapidly evolving international political order? 	4 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the various constraints on American hegemony today. Which of these are likely to become more prominent in the future? 	15
2316	8(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss: India's Foreign policy post 2014 represent a departure from traditional approaches. 	5 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain the major features of India's Foreign Policy in the 21st century. 	10
2306 2312	8(b) 5(e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the major impediments to India's regional Cooperation? Discuss. ● SAARC was formed to imitate the successes of ASEAN in South Asia, however it fell of the cliff with no substantial successes. Discuss. 	5(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the reasons for lack of 'regionness' in South Asia? 	10
2306	8(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the major impediments to India's regional Cooperation? Discuss. 	5(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why do ethnic conflicts and insurgencies continue to remain major impediments to regional co-operation in South Asia? 	10
2306 2312	8(a) 4(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate India's case as the leader of Global South. Comment: India-centric order in South Asia. 	5(e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What diplomatic steps has India taken to articulate the interests of the Global South in International Politics? 	10
2312	7(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze the significance of India's peacekeeping operations with the United Nations. 	6 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the importance of India's role in UN peacekeeping operations as a ground for its claim to a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. 	15
2312	2(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment: The center of gravity of international politics is shifting towards Indo-Pacific. Also, highlight the role of QUAD in advancing cooperation and mutual interest in the region. 	6 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) performs an important role in India's strategic balancing act to withstand the dominance of China in Asia. Discuss. 	15

2306	3(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the term 'No First Use' mentioned in India's Nuclear Doctrine and why there is a consensus on revising this component. Explain. 	7(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "India's Nuclear policy is deeply influenced by its cultural beliefs and the pragmatic approach of its foreign policy." 	20
2312	7(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze the elements of change in India's foreign policy towards Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover. 	7(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What steps has India taken to regain its foothold in Afghanistan since the Taliban has taken over the country in August 2021? 	15
2312 2306	6(a) 6(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How have the US sanctions impacted India-Iran relations, and do you believe that there is a need to restart and strengthen ties between India and Iran in light of these sanctions? ● India and Iran share a historical bond; however, the two players have not been able to conduct their bilateral relations as expected, due to diplomatic compulsions. In the light of this statement discuss their mutual importance, issues, and ways for improving ties. 	7(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the challenges and limitations in India - Iran relations? 	15
2316	8(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A country that demands moral perfection in its foreign policy will achieve neither perfection nor security". Discuss the key determinants of Foreign policy in context of India. 	8(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the external determinants of the Foreign Policy of a State? 	20
2314	6(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the key constraints in India's Look West Policy? Discuss. 	8(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the significance of "West Asia Quad" in the light of India's 'Look West' policy. 	15
2312	7(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In what ways is India utilizing the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) to pursue its foreign policy objectives and counter China's growing influence in the Asia-Africa region? 	8(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the major drivers of India's interests in Africa. 	15