

MPS-104

**MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME
IN POLITICAL SCIENCE(MAPS)**

**ASSIGNMENT
(First Year)**

July 2026 and January 2027 Sessions



**School of Social Sciences
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068**

M.A. (Political Science)
CORE COURSES

Dear learner,

As explained in the Programme Guide, you will have to do a Tutor Marked Assignment for each course in Political Science. This booklet contains the assignments of the first year courses of the Masters Programme in Political Science.

You need to submit all the assignments within the stipulated time for being eligible to appear in the term-end examination. Before you attempt the assignments, please read the instructions carefully provided in the Programme Guide.

It is important that you write the answers in your own words. Your answers should be within the approximate range of the word-limit set for a particular section. Remember, writing answers to assignment questions will improve your writing skills and prepare you for the term-end examination.

All assignments, including these, have to be **submitted to the Coordinator of your Study Centre**. Remember to obtain a receipt from the Study Centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a Xerox copy of the assignments with you.

The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre will note down the marks awarded for each assignment and forward them to the Student Evaluation Division (SED) at IGNOU, New Delhi.

Submission:

The completed assignments should be submitted as per the following schedule.

Session	Last Date of Submission	To be Submitted to
For July 2026 Session	March 31, 2027	The Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you
For January 2027 Session	September 30, 2027	

Wishing you all the best,

Faculty of Political Science

COMPARATIVE POLITICS (MPS-104)
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
Course Code: MPS-104
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2026-27
Marks: 100

Note: Answer five questions, selecting at least two questions from each section. Each question must be answered in about 500 words. Each carries 20 marks.

SECTION – I

1. Critically examine the significance, scope and limits of comparative politics. How do comparative methods help explain political similarities, differences and causal patterns across cases?
2. Compare political economy and feminist approaches to comparative politics. How does each approach illuminate structures of power, inequality and political change?
3. Analyse the changing role and capacity of the state in developed and developing countries in the era of globalisation.
4. Examine state–civil society relations in comparative perspective. Under what conditions can civil society deepen participation and accountability, and when can its autonomy be constrained?
5. Write short notes on the following in about 250 words each:
 - (a) Problems in comparative analysis
 - (b) Electoral systems and political representation

SECTION – II

6. Compare legislative–executive relations in parliamentary and presidential systems. Assess their implications for accountability, stability and the concentration of power.
7. Evaluate the role of the judiciary in democratic governance. Discuss judicial review and judicial activism from a comparative perspective.
8. “Federal and unitary systems are increasingly showing converging tendencies.” Critically examine this claim with reference to diversity, regional asymmetry, crisis governance and technological change.
9. Analyse the roles of political parties, interest groups and ruling elites in the organisation and distribution of political power. Do these actors strengthen representation or reproduce unequal influence?
10. Write short notes on the following in about 250 words each:
 - (a) Political leadership and bureaucracy
 - (b) The military as a political actor