

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

Assignments

(M.A. Second Year Courses)

July 2025 and January 2026 Sessions



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

ELECTIVE COURSES: M.A. II Year (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

Dear Student,

As mentioned in the Programme Guide, you will have to do one Tutor Marked Assignment for each of the courses in the Master's Degree Programme in Political Science. Each assignment has descriptive and short category questions. Descriptive Category Questions (DCQs) are meant for writing essay type answers, with an introduction and a conclusion. These are intended to test your ability to describe your understanding/knowledge about the topic in a systematic, to-the-point and coherent manner. Short Category Questions (SCQs) require you to first analyse the topic in terms of arguments and explanations and then write the answers in a concise manner. They are meant to test your understanding of the concepts and processes, and your capacity to critically analyse them.

Before you attempt the assignments, please read the instructions carefully. It is important that you write the answers to all the TMA questions 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.

This booklet has assignments of all II year courses of Master's in Political Science. Do the assignments of only those courses for which you are enrolled and leave the rest.

You need to submit all the assignments within the stipulated time for being eligible to appear in the term-end examination. The completed assignments should be submitted as per the following schedule.

Last date of Submission	Whom to submit
March 31, 2026 for July 2025 Session	The Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you
September 30, 2026 for January 2026 Session	

Please 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 return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre has to send the marks to the Student Evaluation Division (SED) at IGNOU, New Delhi.

WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (FROM PLATO TO MARX) (MPSE-003)

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Course Code: MPSE-003

Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2025-26

Marks: 100

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

SECTION – I

1. Discuss the relationship between political thought and political science.
2. Examine Plato's Theory of Ideas.
3. Elaborate upon Aristotle's methodology.
4. What is St. Thomas Aquinas's Grand Synthesis? Explain.
5. Write a note on Machiavelli's 'The Prince'.

SECTION – II

Write a short note in each of the following in about 250 words.

6. (a) Hobbes on the state of nature
(b) Locke on Social Contract and Civil society
7. (a) Rousseau's Theory of General will
(b) Critique of Edmund Burke
8. (a) Kant's formulations of the categorical imperative
(b) 'The Panopticon'
9. (a) Tocqueville's views on Democracy and Revolution
(b) J. S. Mill on women's rights
10. (a) Hegel's philosophy of History
(b) Historical Materialism