MPSE-003

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE(MPS)

ASSIGNMENT

(First Year)

July 2026 and January 2027 Sessions

School of Social Sciences
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-11006

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 marked 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

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

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Course Code: MPSE-003

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. Evaluate Plato's political philosophy. What is Plato's contribution to western political thought?

2. "Aristotle is 'a status-quoist". In the light of this statement, examine Aristotle's views on revolution.

3. What were St. Thomas Aquinas' views on the relations between faith and reason?

4. Explain Machiavelli's classification of forms of Governments.

5. Write short notes on the following in about 250 words each:

   (a) Thomas Hobbes' Social contract

   (b) John Locke's state of nature and natural rights

SECTION – II

6. Examine the nature and characteristic of Rousseau's General Will.

7. Write a short note on Burke's views on citizenship and democracy.

8. Explain Kant's idea of 'Categorical Imperative' with suitable examples.

9. "The history of the hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle". Explain and discuss.

10. Write short notes on the following in about 250 words each:

    (a) Bentham's views on Democratic government and welfare state.

    (b) The State is the March of God on Earth.