MPSE-006

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (MPS) / MASTER OF ARTS (POLITICAL SCIENCE) (ONE YEAR) (MAPSOY)

ASSIGNMENT 2026-27

(Second Year/First Semester)

MPSE-006: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Faculty of Political Science

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-68

M.A. (Political Science)

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 Second-year optional course of the Master's Programme in Political Science (MPS)/course of Semester-First of MAPSOY: Master of Arts (Political Science) (One Year).

You need to submit all the assignments within the stipulated time to be 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 **For January 2027 Session**	**March 31, 2027** **September 30, 2027**	**The Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you**

Wishing you all the best,

Faculty of Political Science

MPSE-006: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Course Code: MPSE-006

Assignment Code: MPSE-006/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 question carries 20 marks.

SECTION – I

1. Johan Galtung's distinction between negative and positive peace, and his related idea of structural violence, widened the scope of peace studies well beyond the absence of war. Kenneth Boulding and others worried that such a broad notion of peace would lose its analytical advantage. Critically assess this debate.

2. The feminist, political economy and environmental approaches each identify the roots of violence in a different place. Compare what each identifies as the principal source of conflict and what each proposes as the path to peace.

3. Examine the main elements of Clausewitz's theory of war and assess how well it applies to contemporary wars.

4. Compare the realist, idealist and Marxist explanations of war. And, where do they differ in their assumptions about human nature, the state and the international system?

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

a) Kenneth Waltz's three levels of analysis to understand the causes of war and state behaviour in international relations

b) Insurgency and Counterinsurgency

SECTION – II

6. Distinguish between revolutionary war, civil war, insurgency, guerrilla war, terrorism and proxy war. Why do these categories so often overlap in practice, and what difficulties does this overlap create for states seeking an effective response to internal armed conflict?

7. Compare the diplomatic methods of dispute settlement (negotiation, good offices, mediation and conciliation) with the judicial methods of arbitration and adjudication. Why do states generally prefer diplomatic methods?

8. Distinguish between peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding. Explain why some United Nations missions achieved their objectives while others did not.

9. Examine the powers of the Security Council under Chapters VI and VII of the United Nations Charter. How did the Uniting for Peace Resolution attempt to overcome deadlock in the council?

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

a) Gandhi's Philosophy of Non-Violence

b) The idea of Human Security