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Q1(a)

Explain the Philosophical approach to the study of Political theory

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · PSIR GS 1 · 10 marks · Political Theory

Political Theory: meaning and approaches.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Classical core

Plato's Republic and **Aristotle's** Politics set definition, distinction, and the search for the best political life as the method of political philosophy.

Modern contract

Hobbes, **Locke**, and **Rousseau** used hypothetical agreement to justify or limit political authority rather than only to describe existing kings.

Twentieth century

Rawls rebuilt justice as fairness; Strauss, Berlin, and Arendt kept philosophical categories alive against a purely behavioural science of politics.

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