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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Questions only**UPSC Mains 2026 PSIR Paper 1**

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Answer key at the end of this PDF

Attempt the paper first. After the last question, this pack closes with a compiled answer key: official letters in boxed exam order, then a question-wise list with Solution links to WRAP Exams.

Q1(a) · 10 marks

Resurgence of political theory.

Topic · Political Theory

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Q1(b) · 10 marks

Post-colonial theory of State.

Topic · Theories of the State

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Q1(c) · 10 marks

The freedom of the pike is death to the minnows.

Topic · Political Theory

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Q1(d) · 10 marks

Legitimacy is always a 'social construct'.

Topic · Political Theory

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Q1(e) · 10 marks

Herbert Marcuse turned Freudianism on its head in his critical theory.

Topic · Political Theory

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Q2(a) · 20 marks

"Rights of the man are separate and independent of the State." Critically analyze the perspective of Laski

Topic · Political Theory

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Q2(b) · 15 marks

"Fortune favours the brave." In the light of this statement, discuss Machiavelli's concepts of 'virtue' and 'fortune'

Topic · Political Theory

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Q2(c) · 15 marks

Discuss B. R. Ambedkar's views on democracy and State socialism

Topic · Political Theory

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Q3(a) · 20 marks

Mill's work was crucial to the development of liberalism, because it straddled the divide between classical and modern theories. Analyze

Topic · Democracy: Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy

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Q3(b) · 15 marks

Wollstonecraft developed first systematic feminist critique. Discuss her main ideas

Topic · Political Theory

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Q3(c) · 15 marks

Discuss Gandhi's approach to property in relation to trusteeship

Topic · Political Theory

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Q4(a) · 20 marks

"Representative democracy is not an absolute principle, rather a question of time, place and circumstances." Analyze the statement. Mention the major challenges to representative democracy

Topic · Democracy: Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy

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Q4(b) · 15 marks

What is capability approach? Elaborate the distinctive features of the capability theory of equality

Topic · Equality

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Q4(c) · 15 marks

Analyze Kautilya's Saptanga theory. How do you explain its significance in present-day politics?

Topic · Political Theory

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Q5(a) · 10 marks

How did Swadeshi grow into a demand for Swaraj?

Topic · Political Theory

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Q5(b) · 10 marks

The Constitution of India was secular even before the word was included in the Preamble. Comment.

Topic · Salient Features of the Indian Constitution

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Q5(c) · 10 marks

Identity has become an important phenomenon in the modern politics in India. Discuss.

Topic · Political Theory

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Q5(d) · 10 marks

Ending proxy leadership in Panchayati Raj is a necessary step towards true grassroots democracy. Comment.

Topic · Grassroots Democracy

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Q5(e) · 10 marks

Discuss the impact of liberalization on agriculture sector in India.

Topic · Political Theory

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Q6(a) · 20 marks

From passive resistors to armed revolutionaries, the Indian Freedom Struggle has a strong imprint of women freedom fighters. Elucidate

Topic · Equality

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Q6(b) · 15 marks

When there are multiple stakeholders of power, conversation and consensus become the natural ingredients of governance. Analyze with respect to coalition politics

Topic · Concept of power, hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.

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Q6(c) · 15 marks

Evaluate the Centre-State relation with reference to Article 293 and analyze its implications for the Indian federal structure

Topic · Federalism

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Q7(a) · 20 marks

Elucidate the prominent trends in voting behaviour in contemporary India, and discuss how astroturfing affects the scenario

Topic · Political Theory

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Q7(b) · 15 marks

Highlight any five constitutional provisions that restrain the powers of the executive, and evaluate their effectiveness in current times

Topic · Federalism

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Q7(c) · 15 marks

Map the different types of ethnic conflicts that have emerged in 21st century India

Topic · Political Theory

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Q8(a) · 20 marks

Discuss the causes and consequences of inter-State water disputes in India

Topic · Political Theory

[Open on wrapexams.com](https://www.wrapexams.com)

Q8(b) · 15 marks

Critically comment on the shifts in the functioning of the Indian Parliament in the last two decades

Topic · Indian Nationalism

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Q8(c) · 15 marks

"The lack of political will in preventing environmental degradation is one of the major challenges that India is experiencing." Comment

Topic · Political Theory

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WRAP Exams

Compiled answer key

Last pages of this pack. Each question links to the WRAP model answer on wrapexams.com.

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Q1(a) 10 marks	Q1(b) 10 marks	Q1(c) 10 marks	Q1(d) 10 marks
Q1(e) 10 marks	Q2(a) 20 marks	Q2(b) 15 marks	Q2(c) 15 marks
Q3(a) 20 marks	Q3(b) 15 marks	Q3(c) 15 marks	Q4(a) 20 marks
Q4(b) 15 marks	Q4(c) 15 marks	Q5(a) 10 marks	Q5(b) 10 marks
Q5(c) 10 marks	Q5(d) 10 marks	Q5(e) 10 marks	Q6(a) 20 marks
Q6(b) 15 marks	Q6(c) 15 marks	Q7(a) 20 marks	Q7(b) 15 marks
Q7(c) 15 marks	Q8(a) 20 marks	Q8(b) 15 marks	Q8(c) 15 marks

Question-wise key

Q1(a) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(b) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(d) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(e) · 10 marks Solution

Q2(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q2(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q2(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q3(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q3(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q3(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q4(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q4(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q4(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q5(a) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(b) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(d) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(e) · 10 marks Solution

Q6(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q6(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q6(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q7(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q7(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q7(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q8(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q8(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q8(c) · 15 marks Solution

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