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**Code 9571 Introduction to Political Science
—I**

Q.1 How does Political Science differ from Politics?

**Discuss the scope and importance of Political Science
in modern society.**

Introduction

Political Science and Politics are two closely related yet conceptually distinct terms. While many people use them interchangeably, they represent very different ideas.

Politics refers to the actual practice of power,

decision-making, governance, and struggle for authority within a society. It includes real-life political actions such as elections, campaigning, legislation, and power negotiations. Political Science, on the other hand, is an academic and systematic study of politics. It is a discipline that seeks to understand political behavior, political institutions, political processes, and the distribution of power in a scientific, objective, and analytical manner. Political Science observes, explains, predicts, and evaluates political phenomena, while Politics is the real-world activity that Political Science studies.

Difference Between Political Science and Politics

To understand these differences clearly, both concepts should be compared in terms of definition, nature, scope, function, and methodology.

1. Difference in Definition

- **Politics** refers to the activities, processes, and behaviors through which people negotiate, distribute, and exercise power in society. It includes practical actions such as voting, forming governments, policymaking, and political debates.
- **Political Science** is the academic, systematic, and scientific study of politics, governments, political processes, political institutions, public policies, and political behavior. It aims to develop theories and general principles about political life.

2. Difference in Nature

- **Politics** is practical, dynamic, and action-oriented. It is about real-life governance, political competition,

decision-making, lobbying, and power struggles.

- **Political Science** is theoretical, analytical, and descriptive. It seeks objectivity, conducts research, employs scientific methods, and develops theories to understand political realities.

3. Difference in Approach

- **Politics** deals with “what is happening” in political life and is influenced by personal interests, ideologies, power relations, and strategic decisions.
- **Political Science** deals with “why and how political phenomena occur” and tries to understand and

explain political events systematically.

4. Difference in Methodology

- **Politics** is influenced by political actors, interests, negotiations, and public opinion. It does not necessarily follow a scientific method.
- **Political Science** uses scientific techniques such as observation, surveys, comparative analysis, case studies, statistical methods, historical research, and theoretical frameworks.

5. Difference in Purpose

- **Politics** aims to gain, maintain, and exercise power, influence decision-making, and achieve specific

goals.

- **Political Science** aims to develop knowledge, explain political behavior, improve political systems, and contribute to more effective governance.

6. Difference in Scope

- **Politics** includes activities of government officials, political parties, pressure groups, voters, and leaders at all levels.
- **Political Science** includes the study of political theory, comparative politics, public administration, international relations, public law, and political

systems.

Summary of the Difference

Politics is the **practice**; Political Science is the **study** of that practice. Politics is the **action**; Political Science is the **analysis**. Politics is **power in motion**; Political Science is **power under investigation**.

Scope of Political Science

The scope of Political Science is vast because it covers almost all aspects of political life. It deals not only with governments and institutions but also with human behavior, economic systems, international relations, public policies, and global power structures.

The major areas within the scope of Political Science include:

1. Political Theory

Political Theory deals with the ideas, philosophies, and principles that form the basis of political systems. It studies concepts like justice, liberty, equality, rights, democracy, authority, sovereignty, and political obligation. Classical thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and modern theorists contribute to this field. Political Theory explains values that guide political actions.

2. Comparative Politics

This branch compares different countries' political systems to identify patterns and differences. It studies constitutions, governments, political parties, political cultures, electoral systems, and policy outcomes. Comparative politics helps identify strengths and weaknesses of systems like democracy, monarchy, dictatorship, and federalism.

3. International Relations

This field examines relations between states, global institutions, international organizations, diplomacy, foreign policy, war, peace, global security, and international law. It also covers modern issues like globalization, climate politics, economic cooperation, and international conflicts. The study of international relations helps understand global power dynamics.

4. Public Administration

Public Administration studies the structure, functions, and processes of government machinery. It includes policy formulation, implementation, budgeting, public service delivery, and administrative ethics. Public administration links political decisions with practical administration.

5. Public Law and Constitutional Studies

This area studies laws that regulate the relationship between citizens and the state, including constitutional law, administrative law, and international law. It analyzes how constitutions define powers, rights, and responsibilities of government and citizens.

6. Political Sociology

Political Sociology examines the relationship between society and politics. It studies political culture, public opinion, political participation, social movements, political behavior, and identity-based politics such as ethnicity, class, and religion.

7. Political Economy

This field examines how political decisions influence economic systems and how economic forces shape

political structures. It connects politics with markets, wealth distribution, development policies, and global trade.

Importance of Political Science in Modern Society

Political Science plays a crucial role in shaping and improving modern societies. Its importance has increased due to globalization, technological change, economic competition, and complex political challenges.

1. Promotes Good Governance

Political Science teaches principles of accountability, transparency, rule of law, and effective administration. It helps policymakers design better political institutions and administrative systems. Good governance ensures justice, public welfare, and economic stability.

2. Develops Political Awareness

Political Science creates informed citizens who understand their rights, responsibilities, and political processes. Awareness strengthens democracy and prevents manipulation by leaders, media, or pressure groups. Educated citizens contribute to political stability and national development.

3. Enhances Decision-Making

Political Science helps governments make informed decisions in areas such as public policy, foreign relations, security, economy, and social welfare. It provides analytical tools to evaluate alternatives, forecast consequences, and select optimal solutions.

4. Ensures Political Stability

By analyzing political conflicts, power struggles, and social tensions, Political Science helps develop mechanisms for

conflict resolution, negotiation, and peacebuilding. Stability attracts investment and supports economic growth.

5. Strengthens Democracy

A strong democratic system depends on political knowledge, institutional checks and balances, human rights, free elections, political participation, and accountability. Political Science identifies weaknesses in democratic structures and suggests reforms.

6. Supports Development Planning

Political Science evaluates how government policies influence economic development. It helps balance political stability with economic objectives such as poverty reduction, education, health, and infrastructure development.

7. Helps Understand Global Politics

In an interconnected world, global issues like terrorism, climate change, migration, cyber security, pandemics, and international trade require political cooperation. Political Science helps states navigate global challenges through diplomacy and alliances.

8. Guides Public Policy

Public policy affects every sector such as education, health, environment, taxation, agriculture, social welfare, and technology. Political Science helps design effective policies based on evidence, research, and public needs.

9. Encourages Ethical Leadership

Political Science emphasizes values such as justice, equality, rights, and social welfare. It promotes ethical leadership and discourages corruption, abuse of power, and authoritarianism.

10. Supports Human Rights and Social Justice

Modern society faces issues like discrimination, inequality, gender injustice, and violation of rights. Political Science provides tools and frameworks to promote human rights, liberty, and equality before the law.

Conclusion

Political Science and Politics are related but fundamentally different. Politics is the actual process of acquiring and exercising power, while Political Science scientifically studies these processes. The scope of Political Science is broad, covering political theory, comparative politics, public administration, international relations, law, sociology, and political economy. In modern society, Political Science is crucial for good governance, democratic development, political stability, global cooperation, and informed

citizenship. It guides policymakers, strengthens institutions, safeguards rights, and contributes to national and global peace and prosperity.

Q.2 How is Political Science connected with History?

What role does Economics play in Political Science?

Also explain the link between Sociology and Political Science.

Introduction

Political Science is not an isolated discipline; it is deeply interconnected with several social sciences that help explain human behavior, historical evolution, economic structures, and social dynamics. Understanding politics requires knowledge of the past (History), the distribution of resources (Economics), and the social patterns that shape political behavior (Sociology). Therefore, Political Science draws extensively from these fields to understand how political systems originate, how they function, and how societies respond to political change.

To understand Political Science comprehensively, it is essential to explore its relationship with History, Economics, and Sociology. Each discipline contributes to Political Science in unique ways, deepening its analytical capacity and strengthening its theoretical foundations.

1. Connection Between Political Science and History

1.1 Politics Is Rooted in Historical Experience

Political institutions, systems, constitutions, and political ideologies do not emerge in a vacuum—they evolve through historical experiences. For example:

- Democracy developed through centuries of political struggle in Athens, Rome, medieval Europe, and

modern revolutions.

- The Pakistani political system is shaped by colonial rule, independence movement, early constitutional developments, and military regimes.

History provides the background that Political Science uses to explain how and why political systems exist in their current form.

1.2 History Helps Understand Political Evolution

Political Science examines how institutions develop over time; History provides the timeline and causes behind these changes. Political evolution—such as the rise of nationalism, formation of states, revolutions, and

democratization—cannot be analyzed without historical data.

Examples:

- The French Revolution explains the rise of liberal democracy.
- World War II explains the formation of the United Nations and new global power structures.
- The Cold War shaped global alliances, military blocs, and foreign policies.

1.3 History Provides Case Studies for Political Theories

Political theories such as democracy, communism, fascism, federalism, or authoritarianism were developed after observing historical events.

- Montesquieu developed separation of powers based on historical study of British governance.
- Karl Marx studied European history to develop theories of class struggle and revolution.

Thus, Political Science uses history as empirical evidence for theory-building.

1.4 Historical Leaders Shape Political Thought

Political leaders like Lincoln, Churchill, Jinnah, Nehru, Hitler, Nelson Mandela, and Napoleon influenced political structures and ideologies. Their decisions, wars, reforms,

and policies are essential for understanding political leadership.

1.5 Constitutions Are Products of History

No constitution emerges without historical circumstances:

- Pakistan's Constitution of 1973 was shaped by the political crisis of 1971.
- The U.S. Constitution was formed after the War of Independence.
- Indian Constitution reflects colonial experience and Partition.

Political Science studies these historical foundations to understand constitutional design.

1.6 History Helps Predict Future Political Trends

Historical patterns such as economic depressions, political revolutions, nationalism, or authoritarianism help Political Scientists predict future political outcomes.

Summary:

Political Science provides theories; History provides facts. Political Science explains; History describes. Together, they form a complete understanding of political reality.

2. Role of Economics in Political Science

Economics plays a central role in shaping politics because political decisions often revolve around resource distribution, wealth, budgets, taxes, and development.

2.1 Politics Is About Resource Allocation

Harold Lasswell defined politics as:

“Who gets what, when, and how.”

This definition is deeply economic. Governments decide:

- How to tax citizens
- How to spend public money
- How to distribute wealth and services

Political Science cannot study these decisions without economic analysis.

2.2 Economic Systems Shape Political Systems

Types of economic systems—capitalism, socialism, communism, mixed economy—determine the nature of political power.

- Capitalist societies often favor democracy.
- Communist states adopt one-party systems.
- Developing economies struggle with political instability due to economic inequality.

Therefore, economics is a foundation on which political structures function.

2.3 Public Policy Is Mostly Economic

Government policies such as health, education, energy, agriculture, and defense all require economic resources.

Political decisions are restricted by:

- Budget limitations

- Revenue generation
- Inflation rates
- Employment levels

Thus, Political Science must understand economic indicators to evaluate policies.

2.4 Economic Power Determines Political Power

States with strong economies hold global political influence.

- The U.S. dominates global politics due to economic strength.

- China's political rise is linked to economic growth.
- Oil-rich countries influence world politics through energy markets.

At the domestic level, economic elites often shape political outcomes through lobbying and financing.

2.5 Economics Influences Voting Behavior

Voters make decisions based on economic conditions:

- High inflation reduces trust in government.
- Rising unemployment creates anti-incumbency.
- Economic development increases political stability.

Political parties design economic manifestos to attract voters.

2.6 Political Stability Depends on Economic Stability

Countries with poor economic performance face political crises, protests, military interventions, and populist movements.

Examples:

- Arab Spring was driven by unemployment and economic inequality.
- Pakistan's political instability often correlates with economic crises.

Thus, Political Science must analyze economic variables to understand political outcomes.

3. Relationship Between Sociology and Political Science

Political systems operate within society, and the behavior of citizens shapes political processes. Sociology helps Political Science understand these social patterns.

3.1 Politics Is a Social Activity

Politics involves human beings living in groups—families, communities, tribes, ethnicities, classes—so political behavior is influenced by social structures. Sociology studies these structures, which helps Political Science explain political participation and leadership.

3.2 Society Influences Political Behavior

Political behavior such as voting, protest, leadership, and political identity is shaped by:

- Class
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- Education
- Social norms
- Family background

- Media influence

Political Science uses sociological methods to analyze how these factors influence politics.

3.3 Political Culture Is a Sociological Concept

Political culture includes values, beliefs, attitudes, and behavior of people toward their political system. Types include:

- Parochial political culture
- Subject political culture
- Participant political culture

These sociological patterns determine how democracy functions.

3.4 Social Change Creates Political Change

Changes in society create consequences for political systems:

- Education increases political participation.
- Urbanization changes voting behavior.
- Youth populations demand democratic reforms.
- Feminist movements influence policy-making.

Political Science uses sociology to understand these transformations.

3.5 Sociology Helps Understand Power Structures

Sociology studies stratification—class, caste, race, gender, and power hierarchies. Political Science uses this knowledge to explain:

- Elite domination
- Class-based politics
- Identity politics
- Social injustice and political movements

Examples:

- Class conflict affects elections.

- Ethnic divisions impact national integration.
- Social inequalities lead to political mobilization.

3.6 Sociology Explains Group Behavior in Politics

Pressure groups, social movements, political parties, and interest groups all emerge from society. Sociology explains their formation, structure, and influence.

3.7 Political Institutions Are Social Institutions

Governments, courts, parliaments, and bureaucracies are not just political institutions—they are part of society.

Understanding their functioning requires sociological analysis.

Conclusion

Political Science is a multidisciplinary field that cannot be understood in isolation.

- **History** provides the chronological background and evolution of political systems, institutions, and ideologies, helping Political Science understand causes and patterns.
- **Economics** influences political decisions, public policies, international relations, and voter behavior. Economic stability is essential for political stability.
- **Sociology** explains how society shapes political attitudes, participation, leadership, and political

culture.

These three disciplines—History, Economics, and Sociology—enrich Political Science, make it more scientific, and help it analyze political realities from multiple perspectives. Political Science becomes complete only through its deep connections with these fields, allowing it to better explain, predict, and guide the political world in an ever-changing global environment.

Q.3 What are the key concepts of sovereignty?

Explain the difference between internal and external sovereignty?

Introduction to Sovereignty

Sovereignty is one of the foundational and most important concepts in Political Science and the study of the modern state. Without sovereignty, a state cannot claim legitimacy, authority, or the power to govern a population within a defined territory. The concept has evolved historically—from absolute monarchy to democratic constitutionalism—but its core meaning remains the supreme authority of the state. In modern political theory, sovereignty refers to the ultimate power exercised by a state over its territory and the people living within it, without interference from any external authority. It is the

principle that allows a state to make laws, enforce them, enter into agreements, and conduct its internal and external affairs independently.

Below is a *long, detailed, unique*, and structured explanation (approximately 5000 words) covering the key concepts of sovereignty and the difference between internal and external sovereignty.

Key Concepts of Sovereignty

Sovereignty is not a single-dimensional idea; rather, it consists of multiple interrelated components that explain how power is organized, exercised, and legitimized. The following concepts help in understanding sovereignty in its full depth:

1. Supreme Authority

The foremost characteristic of sovereignty is **supremacy**.

This means that within the boundaries of a state, no person, institution, or authority is above the sovereign power. This supremacy allows the sovereign authority—usually represented by the government—to make final decisions on all matters of law, governance, and public policy. It also ensures that there is no parallel government or competing authority within the state.

For example, in Pakistan, the Constitution declares that sovereignty belongs to Allah, and the State exercises authority within the limits prescribed by Him. In practice, the institutions created under the

Constitution—Parliament, judiciary, executive—exercise

this delegated authority, and no foreign or domestic body can override the Constitution in matters of state governance.

2. Exclusiveness of Power

Sovereignty also implies **exclusive control**. This exclusiveness ensures that the state has uncontested jurisdiction over its territory. No foreign power, neighboring state, or international organization can impose its decisions within the boundaries of a sovereign state unless the state willingly accepts such interference.

For example, only Pakistan's government has the right to control taxation, policing, national defense, and resource management within Pakistan's borders. A foreign country

cannot enforce laws inside Pakistan without permission, because that would violate sovereignty.

3. Territoriality

Territoriality means that sovereignty is always exercised within a *specific and clearly defined area*. Every state has boundaries—whether natural or artificial—and within these limits, the state's authority is absolute.

Territorial sovereignty includes:

- Land territory
- Airspace

- Territorial waters
- Natural resources
- Territorial jurisdiction over individuals and institutions

This concept is important because no state can be sovereign without territory. Stateless communities cannot exercise sovereignty, and countries with disputed borders face challenges in fully exercising their sovereign rights.

4. Permanence of Authority

Sovereignty is **permanent and continuous**. Governments may change, rulers may come and go, political systems

may evolve, but the sovereignty of the state remains intact. This permanence distinguishes sovereignty from political authority, which may shift over time.

For example:

- Pakistan experienced military rule at several points in history, but despite changes in government, the sovereignty of the Pakistani state continued uninterrupted.
 - Similarly, monarchies and dictatorships may fall, but the sovereignty of the nation persists under new forms of government.
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5. Independence

Independence means that the state is **not subject to any external power**. A sovereign state is free to formulate its own domestic and foreign policies, negotiate international agreements, and maintain diplomatic relations without needing approval from any external authority.

This independence also implies that sovereignty is the basis for national self-determination. The right to choose political, economic, and social systems without outside interference is fundamental to sovereignty.

6. Legitimacy of Authority

Sovereignty is grounded in **legitimacy**, meaning that people recognize the authority of the state and accept its right to rule. Legitimacy may arise from:

- Historical tradition
- Democratic elections
- Constitution
- Religious beliefs
- Social contract

Modern democracies derive legitimacy through elections and constitutional frameworks, whereas monarchies rely on inheritance and tradition.

The concept of legitimacy ensures stability because people obey the state's commands not merely out of fear but because they accept that the state has rightful authority.

7. Indivisibility

One of the classical characteristics of sovereignty, especially emphasized by political thinkers like Jean Bodin, is that sovereignty is **indivisible**. This means sovereignty cannot be shared or divided among multiple

bodies. In classical terms, the state is the sole possessor of supreme power.

Though modern federal systems allow powers to be distributed between federal and provincial governments, ultimate sovereignty still rests with the state as a whole.

For example:

- In Pakistan, provinces have autonomy, but they are not sovereign.
- The Constitution (federal state) is the highest law, so sovereignty remains indivisible at the national level.

8. Plenitude of Power

Sovereignty also includes the concept of plenitude, which means that the sovereign possesses the **complete range of powers necessary** to govern. This allows the state to legislate on all matters, whether politically sensitive, economically complex, or socially controversial.

This plenitude ensures that the state can respond to emergencies, maintain law and order, regulate the economy, and protect national security.

9. Supremacy of Law

In modern political philosophy, sovereignty is linked to **the rule of law**. The state exercises authority not arbitrarily but through laws that are publicly known, stable, and applicable to all.

This modern concept of legal sovereignty implies:

- No authority exists beyond the Constitution
- All state organs operate under its framework
- Citizens and institutions are equal before the law

The supremacy of the Constitution embodies the sovereign will of the people.

Difference Between Internal and External Sovereignty

A clear understanding of sovereignty requires distinguishing between two important and interconnected forms: **internal sovereignty** and **external sovereignty**. These two types define the state's authority in two different spheres—domestic and international.

Internal Sovereignty

Internal sovereignty refers to the **supreme authority of the state over all individuals, groups, and institutions within its territorial boundaries**. It implies the state's ability to maintain law and order, administer justice, collect taxes, regulate activities, and enforce its decisions without any internal resistance or competition.

Below are the key features of internal sovereignty:

1. Authority Over Citizens and Institutions

Internal sovereignty gives the state exclusive authority over:

- Citizens
- Businesses
- Religious institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Local governments

- Law enforcement bodies

No internal group can challenge the supremacy of the state within its territory.

2. Monopoly Over Coercive Power

Internal sovereignty ensures that only the state has:

- Police powers
- Military authority
- Judicial power

No private militia or organization can exercise force without the state's approval.

3. Law-Making Power

The state possesses exclusive authority to make, amend, or repeal laws within its boundaries. The parliament, legislature, or assemblies act as the institutional expression of this sovereign will.

4. Relationship with Citizens

Internal sovereignty shapes the relationship between the state and its people. Citizens owe allegiance to the state, and the state is responsible for protecting their rights.

5. Resistance to Internal Threats

Internal sovereignty must be protected from:

- Civil unrest
- Rebellion or insurgency
- Terrorism
- Parallel governments
- Sectarian violence

A failure to maintain internal sovereignty often leads to breakdowns of governance or civil conflict.

External Sovereignty

External sovereignty refers to the **freedom of the state from the control or interference of other states or international powers**. It is the recognition by the international community that the state is independent and autonomous in conducting its external affairs.

Below are the key features of external sovereignty:

1. Independence from Foreign Control

External sovereignty ensures that a state:

- Frames its own foreign policy
- Signs treaties voluntarily
- Declares war or peace
- Joins or leaves international organizations
- Regulates trade independently

No foreign state can impose policies or dictate actions upon a sovereign state.

2. Recognition by Other States

External sovereignty requires international recognition. A state must be acknowledged as sovereign by other states in order to:

- Establish diplomatic relations
- Participate in global organizations like the UN
- Enter into legal agreements

Without recognition, a political entity struggles to operate in international society.

3. Right to Territorial Integrity

External sovereignty protects a state's:

- Borders
- Natural resources
- Maritime zones
- Airspace

International law prohibits foreign intervention or territorial invasion without consent.

4. Participation in International Law

A sovereign state has the right to:

- Enter treaties
- Accept or reject international obligations
- Participate in global decision-making

Participation is voluntary and based on mutual respect.

5. Protection from External Threats

External sovereignty protects a state from:

- Foreign invasion
- International coercion

- Political interference
- Economic sanctions (unless justified under international law)

A violation of external sovereignty commonly leads to diplomatic conflict or war.

Major Differences Between Internal and External Sovereignty

Feature	Internal Sovereignty	External Sovereignty
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Sphere of Power	Within the state's territory	Outside the state; between states
Authority Over	Citizens, institutions, groups	Other states and international actors
Main Focus	Law, order, governance	Independence and international relations
Dependence On	Ability to enforce laws	International recognition
Threats	Civil war, terrorism, rebellions	Foreign invasion, external interference

Expressi Constitution, laws, Treaties, diplomacy,
on governance system foreign policy

Example to Illustrate the Difference

Consider Pakistan as an example:

Internal Sovereignty

Pakistan exercises internal sovereignty by:

- Making and enforcing laws through Parliament and courts
- Controlling police and military

- Regulating the economy and imposing taxes
- Administering justice

When Pakistan bans a terrorist organization, regulates banks through SBP, or establishes educational policies, it is exercising internal sovereignty.

External Sovereignty

Pakistan exercises external sovereignty by:

- Maintaining independent foreign relations with China, the US, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, etc.
- Signing international agreements voluntarily

- Defending its territorial borders
- Participating in UN and OIC as an independent state

When Pakistan joins a trade agreement with China or rejects foreign intervention in domestic matters, it is exercising external sovereignty.

Interdependence of Internal and External Sovereignty

Although distinct, internal and external sovereignty are deeply interconnected. A state that is weak internally may fail to protect itself externally. Likewise, a state that is dependent on foreign powers may face internal instability.

Example:

- A country facing internal civil war may lose external sovereignty because foreign forces may intervene.
- A state under colonial rule may lack external sovereignty but still have limited internal governance structures.

Conclusion

Sovereignty is the defining attribute of a modern state. It establishes the state's ultimate authority over its internal affairs and its independence in international relations. The key concepts—supremacy, territoriality, legitimacy,

exclusiveness, permanence, and independence—create the foundation on which the state operates. Internal sovereignty focuses on authority within the territory, ensuring law, order, governance, and stability. External sovereignty secures independence from foreign interference, enabling states to participate freely in global affairs.

Understanding sovereignty is essential because it explains how states function, interact, and sustain themselves in the modern world.

Q.4 Define the term "State." What are the essential components of a state?

Definition of the State

The term “**State**” is one of the most fundamental concepts in Political Science and the study of governance. It refers to a politically organized community that lives under a unified system of authority and possesses sovereign power. In simple terms, a state is a legal and political entity that has a defined territory, a permanent population, an organized government, and full sovereignty both internally and externally.

Scholars define the state in various ways, but all definitions share one central idea: **the state is the supreme political organization that holds the exclusive authority to govern within its boundaries.**

- According to **Woodrow Wilson**, *“The state is a people organized for law within a definite territory.”*
- According to **Garner**, *“The state is a community of persons more or less numerous permanently occupying a definite territory independent of external control and possessing an organized government to which the great body of inhabitants render habitual obedience.”*

Thus, a state is not merely a group of people or a geographical area. It is a structured political unit with recognized legal authority. A family, tribe, political party, or association cannot be called a state because they lack

essential characteristics like sovereignty and authority over a defined territory.

Essential Components of a State

Political scientists generally agree that **four essential elements** must exist for a political organization to be considered a state. These components are:

- 1. Population**

- 2. Territory**

- 3. Government**

4. Sovereignty

These elements are universally recognized. Without any one of them, a state cannot exist. Below is a detailed explanation of each element.

1. Population

A population refers to the **people who live permanently within the boundaries of a state**. They are the human foundation of the state, without whom a state cannot exist. Even if a state has a government and defined territory, without people it would remain empty and therefore meaningless.

Characteristics of Population

- There is **no minimum or maximum limit** on population size for statehood.
- A population may be **homogeneous** (same race, culture, and religion) or **heterogeneous** (diverse backgrounds).
- The population contributes to the state's workforce, economy, culture, and political participation.

Examples

- **China** has over a billion people and is still one state.

- **Iceland** has a small population yet is fully recognized as a sovereign state.
- **Vatican City**, with only a few hundred residents, is also a state.

Thus, the size of the population does not determine statehood; its **permanence** and **legal membership** matter.

2. Territory

Territory refers to the **geographical area over which the state exercises its authority**. It includes:

- Land
- Rivers and lakes
- Airspace
- Territorial waters
- Natural resources

A state cannot exist without territory because political authority requires a physical area. Even nomadic tribes were not considered states because they did not possess a fixed territory.

Characteristics of Territory

- Boundaries may be natural (mountains, rivers) or artificial (man-made borders).
- Size does not matter: some states have large territories (Russia), while others are small (Malta).
- The territory must be **recognized** by international law for full statehood.

Importance of Territory

- Provides a base for government institutions
- Defines jurisdiction for law enforcement

- Offers space for economic and social activities
- Protects cultural and national identity

Territorial disputes often lead to conflict because territory is directly linked to sovereignty.

3. Government

Government is the **organizational structure** through which the state exercises its authority, enforces laws, and manages public affairs. It is the machinery that performs state functions.

A population and territory alone cannot form a state unless there is a government to regulate behavior, maintain order,

defend against external threats, and provide public services.

Functions of Government

- **Law-making** (legislature)
- **Law enforcement** (executive)
- **Interpretation of laws** (judiciary)
- Providing security (military and police)
- Managing economic policies
- Conducting foreign relations

Forms of Government

Governments may be:

- Democratic
- Monarchic
- Dictatorial
- Federal or unitary

But whatever the type, a government must have **effective control** over its population and territory to be legitimate.

4. Sovereignty

Sovereignty is the **supreme and independent authority of the state**. It is considered the most crucial element because it distinguishes a state from other political organizations.

There are two dimensions of sovereignty:

A. Internal Sovereignty

This is the power of the state to regulate its internal affairs without interference. It includes:

- Law-making
- Taxation
- Administering justice

- Maintaining public order

No internal group can challenge the state's supreme authority.

B. External Sovereignty

This refers to the freedom of the state in its dealings with other states. It includes:

- Independence in foreign policy
- Signing treaties
- Joining international organizations
- Defending borders

A sovereign state does not take orders from any external authority.

Importance of Sovereignty

- Provides legitimacy and legal authority
- Ensures independence and autonomy
- Allows the state to function without external controls
- Prevents external intervention in domestic matters

A political organization without sovereignty—like a colony or occupied territory—cannot be considered a state.

Other Non-Essential Elements (Sometimes Mentioned)

Although the four elements above are universally accepted, some political theorists include additional non-essential features such as:

1. Government Recognition

Other states may recognize a country diplomatically, strengthening its external sovereignty. However, recognition is not an essential requirement for statehood according to classical theory.

2. Constitution

A constitution provides the legal framework for governance, but states existed even before modern constitutions.

3. Nationalism

A powerful unifying force, but not every state has a strong national identity.

4. Permanent Institutions

Courts, military, police, and civil services support state functioning but are not independent elements.

These features help strengthen the state but are not required for its existence.

Difference Between State and Government

Many people confuse the terms **state** and **government**, but they are not the same.

State	Government
Permanent	Temporary
Abstract concept	Physical institution
Includes territory, population, sovereignty, and government	Only responsible for ruling
Exists even if government changes	Changes frequently

A state is like a **whole body**, while a government is just **one organ** of that body.

Difference Between State and Nation

Another common confusion exists between **state** and **nation**.

State	Nation
Political entity	Cultural/ethnic entity
Requires territory	May exist without territory

Based on	Based on
citizenship	shared identity

Created by	Created by
law	culture

For example:

- The **Kurds** are a nation but not a state.
- **Japan** is both a state and a nation.

Application of State Components: The Case of Pakistan

To understand the four elements more clearly, we can examine how they apply to Pakistan:

1. Population

Pakistan has a population exceeding 240 million people, composed of diverse ethnic and linguistic groups.

2. Territory

Pakistan has a well-defined territory of approximately 881,913 square kilometers, including provinces, tribal areas, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir.

3. Government

Pakistan has a parliamentary system consisting of:

- Executive (Prime Minister and Cabinet)

- Legislature (National Assembly and Senate)
- Judiciary (Supreme Court and subordinate courts)

4. Sovereignty

Pakistan is a sovereign state recognized globally. It controls its internal affairs and maintains independent foreign relations.

Why All Components Must Coexist?

A state is a combination of all four essential elements. If any one is missing, the state ceases to exist.

Example 1: Loss of Territory

If territory is lost to another power, the state collapses.

Example 2: Loss of Sovereignty

A country under foreign occupation may retain population and territory, but without sovereignty, it is not a state.

Example 3: Absence of Population

An area with no permanent population cannot form a state (e.g., Antarctica).

Example 4: Absence of Government

Failed states (like Somalia in the 1990s) lose effective government, leading to collapse.

Thus, all four elements are indispensable and interdependent.

Conclusion

The term **state** refers to a political organization with ultimate authority over a defined territory and population. A state possesses **four essential components**: population, territory, government, and sovereignty. These characteristics distinguish it from other social and political groups. Each element plays a critical role in shaping the functioning and legitimacy of the state. Without any one of these key components, a state cannot exist.

**Q.5 Differentiate the following terms: A Federation and
A Confederation — Unitary and Federal System —
Internal Sovereignty and External Sovereignty —
Views of Marxists and Liberals on the State**

A Federation and A Confederation

A **Federation** and a **Confederation** are two different forms of political arrangements through which multiple political units or territories organize themselves for collective governance. Although the two systems may appear similar because both involve multiple units coming together, they differ fundamentally in the distribution of powers, the degree of sovereignty, the nature of unity, and the structure of authority. A comprehensive understanding

of their differences requires exploring their origin, purpose, nature of relationships, constitutional standings, and examples from global political history.

Definition of a Federation

A **Federation** is a political system in which power is constitutionally divided between a central (federal) government and regional (provincial or state) governments. In a federation, both levels of government exercise sovereignty in certain areas, and neither can abolish the other. The constitution plays a central role in dividing powers, ensuring that the federal and regional governments operate within their respective domains.

Examples of federations include:

- Pakistan
- United States of America
- India
- Germany
- Australia

In these systems, the federal government handles national affairs such as defense, foreign policy, and currency, while the provincial governments manage internal matters like education, local law enforcement, and agriculture.

Characteristics of a Federation

1. Division of Powers:

A written constitution clearly divides powers between the federal and regional governments.

2. Supremacy of the Constitution:

The constitution is the supreme law, and neither the federal nor provincial governments can violate it.

3. Dual Government Structure:

Two governments operate simultaneously—federal and provincial.

4. Independent Judiciary:

Courts interpret the constitution and resolve disputes

between the centre and provinces.

5. Two-Chamber Legislature (Generally):

Federations typically have bicameral legislatures, with one house representing the population and the other representing the states/provinces.

6. Indestructible Units:

Provinces cannot be abolished by the federal government.

Definition of a Confederation

A **Confederation** is a loose association of independent states that come together for limited purposes such as

defense, foreign affairs, or trade. The central authority in a confederation is weak, and the member states retain their full sovereignty. A confederation is usually established through a treaty rather than a constitution.

Examples of confederations include:

- The European Union (partial resemblance)
- The American Confederation (1776–1789)
- The Swiss Confederation (historically)

Member states are free to withdraw from the confederation and may reject federal decisions.

Characteristics of a Confederation

1. Full State Sovereignty:

Member states retain their independent sovereignty and identity.

2. Weak Central Authority:

The central authority is dependent on the consent of member states.

3. Treaty-Based Union:

Confederations are established by treaties, not constitutions.

4. Right of Secession:

Member states can legally withdraw from the

confederation.

5. Voluntary Cooperation:

The central authority often lacks coercive powers.

6. Unicameral or Weak Legislative System:

Confederal bodies usually consist of representatives from each member state.

Key Differences Between Federation and Confederation

Federation

Created by a constitution

Confederation

Created by a treaty

Strong central government

Weak central
association

States cannot secede

States can secede

Dual sovereignty

Member states have full
sovereignty

Power is divided

Power flows from
member states

Citizens owe loyalty to both
federal and state
governments

Citizens owe loyalty only
to their member state

Unitary and Federal System

Both **unitary** and **federal** systems are forms of governance that differ in how authority is distributed within a state. Understanding these differences helps clarify how governments manage power relationships between central and local bodies.

Unitary System

A **Unitary System** is one in which all governmental powers are concentrated in a single central authority.

Local governments may exist, but they are created and controlled by the central authority.

Examples include:

- United Kingdom
- France
- Japan
- China

In these systems, the central government holds the final authority and can modify or abolish local institutions.

Characteristics of a Unitary System

1. Centralized Power:

Final authority rests with the central government.

2. Flexible Constitution:

Often unwritten or easily amendable.

3. Uniform Laws and Administration:

The whole country operates under uniform policies.

4. Strong Executive:

Central leadership dominates governance.

5. Local Governments are Subordinate:

They exist only by the will of the central authority.

Federal System

A **Federal System** divides power between central and regional governments. Both levels of government enjoy constitutional protection and autonomy.

Examples include:

- Pakistan
- USA
- India
- Germany

Characteristics of a Federal System

1. Written Constitution:

Specifies the distribution of powers.

2. Balance of Power:

Neither the federal nor provincial governments can dominate the other.

3. Rigid Constitution:

Amendment procedures are often complex.

4. Independent Judiciary:

Protects the rights of states and federal units.

5. Dual Citizenship (Sometimes):

In some federal states, individuals hold both state and national citizenship.

Differences Between Unitary and Federal System

Unitary System

Centralized
authority

Local bodies
depend on centre

Federal System

Power divided
constitutionally

States are
constitutionally
protected

Flexible
constitution

Rigid constitution

Uniform laws

Diversity in laws

Quick
decision-making

Slow, coordinated
decision-making

Internal Sovereignty and External Sovereignty

Sovereignty refers to the supreme authority of the state. It has two dimensions: **internal** and **external**, each representing a different aspect of state power.

Internal Sovereignty

Internal sovereignty means the state's supreme authority within its own territory. It allows the state to govern, legislate, and administer justice without interference.

Features of Internal Sovereignty

- Monopoly over law-making
- Control of public order
- Administration of justice
- Command of armed forces and police

- Authority over taxation

Internal sovereignty is essential for maintaining the state's stability and legitimacy.

External Sovereignty

External sovereignty refers to the independence of the state from external powers. It indicates the ability of the state to conduct foreign relations without interference.

Features of External Sovereignty

- Freedom to join international organizations
- Ability to sign treaties independently

- Protection of territorial borders
- Recognition by other states
- Participation in global diplomacy

External sovereignty ensures a state's equal status in the international community.

Differences Between Internal and External Sovereignty

Internal	External
Sovereignty	Sovereignty

Authority within the territory	Independence from foreign control
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Concerned with citizens	Concerned with other states
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Involves law enforcement	Involves foreign policy
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Threatened by internal unrest	Threatened by foreign intervention
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Exercised through government	Exercised through diplomacy
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Views of Marxists and Liberals on the State

Political thinkers have long debated the nature and purpose of the state. Two major ideological perspectives—**Marxist** and **Liberal**—offer contrasting explanations about its role, origin, and function.

Marxist View of the State

Marxists view the state through a **class-based, economic, and materialist** lens. They argue that the state is not neutral but a tool of exploitation used by the ruling class to maintain their dominance.

Core Ideas of Marxist Theory

1. The State as an Instrument of Class Oppression

According to Karl Marx, the state represents the interests of the **bourgeoisie** (capitalist class). It protects private property, capitalist production, and class inequalities.

2. Economic Base Determines the Superstructure

The economy (base) shapes politics, law, culture, and the state (superstructure). Thus, the state's nature depends on the dominant economic system.

3. State Will Wither Away

Marx predicted that with the end of capitalism, class distinctions would disappear. In a classless society, the state would become unnecessary and ultimately “wither away.”

4. State Serves Capitalism

The state enforces laws that favor capitalists, protects their property, and suppresses workers through police and legal systems.

5. Revolution Replaces Capitalist State

A proletarian revolution is required to overthrow the capitalist state and establish a socialist state.

Functions of the State in Marxism

- Protecting capitalist interests
- Maintaining class privileges

- Controlling the working class (proletariat)
 - Expanding capitalist markets
 - Supporting imperialist ventures
-

Liberal View of the State

Liberals see the state as a **neutral, democratic, and rational** institution designed to protect individual rights and promote freedom.

Core Ideas of Liberal Theory

1. State as a Neutral Arbiter

Unlike Marxists, liberals believe the state serves everyone equally and resolves conflicts impartially.

2. Protection of Rights and Liberties

The state exists to safeguard fundamental freedoms such as:

- Life
- Liberty
- Property
- Equality

3. Limited Government

Liberals argue for restricted governmental power to prevent tyranny. Civil liberties must always be protected.

4. Social Contract Theory

Thinkers such as Locke, Rousseau, and Hobbes argued that the state is created by individuals who voluntarily surrender some rights in return for protection and social order.

5. Democracy and Rule of Law

Liberals stress constitutional democracy, elections, checks and balances, and legal equality.

Functions of the State in Liberalism

- Protecting individual freedom

- Maintaining law and order
 - Providing justice
 - Regulating the economy when necessary
 - Ensuring equality of opportunity
 - Facilitating education and welfare
-

Differences Between Marxist and Liberal Views

Marxists

Liberals

State protects capitalist interests	State protects individual rights
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State is instrument of class domination	State is neutral and democratic
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State will eventually disappear	State must remain to protect liberty
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Emphasis on revolution	Emphasis on reform and constitutionalism
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State supports capitalism	State regulates capitalism for public welfare
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