

# Unit - 01

## Chapter - 1

### Political Science : Meaning, Nature and Scope

**“Man is a political creature by nature and he who lives without society or state is either a god or a beast “- Aristotle**

The ancient scholars of India divided skills into four pskills- Trayi, Vskilla, Anvikshiki and Dand Neeti. In human society, Dand was to establish order and peace. The classical meaning of ‘Dand’ is the system of society. Orderly Society is called the state. The community where order or ‘Dand’ is established and difference between ruler and ruled prevails due to use of government authority is called State. The knowledge of skill which propounds this state, government and ‘Dand Neeti’ is called Political Science.

#### **Definition of Political Science: Traditional Perspective**

The English word ‘Politics’ is derived from the Greek word “Polis”, which means - city state. That is, the study or knowledge of the city state and related life, events, actions, behaviors and problems is only politics. Aristotle used the word politics in the same meaning. In modern sense the word politics is not used in this broad sense. In modern times, it is related to systematic and orderly knowledge and study of various contexts and relations of the society under state, government, administration and system.

In the traditional perspective, political science is defined in three ways.

- I. As the study of state
- II. As the study of Government
- III. As the study of state and the government
- IV. As the study of state, government and individual

**I. As the study of state-** Writers like Bluntschli, Garner, Garris and Gaitel have defined politics as the study of state.

(1) In the words of Bluntschli, “Political science is a science which is related to the state, which attempts to understand the basic conditions of the state, its nature and various forms and development.”

(2) In the words of Garris, “Political science considers the state as a power institution, which analyzes all relations of the state, its origin, its location, its purpose, its moral significance, its economic problems, its financial aspects, etc. “

(3) According to Garner “Political Science begins and ends with the state.”

(4) According to Gaitel, “Political science studies the political institutions and political theories of the past, present and future of the state, political organizations and political functions.

**II. As a study of the government -** Scholars like Paul Jenet, Celey and Leacock have defined politics as a government study.

(1) In the words of Paul Jenet, “Political science is a pskill of social science in which the theories of state and the theories of governance are considered.”

(2) In the words of Leacock, “Political science is a study related to the government.”

(3) In the words of Celey, “Political science discovers elements of property such as property science, biology of organism, seeds of mathematical figures, and geometry of space and height.”

**III. As the study of government and state-** Some of the scholars believe that Political science studies both

the state and the government. It is wider than the previous approaches and perspectives. The definitions based on the study of only state or on only government are one sided. State and government are complementary to each other and closely interrelated to each other. The separate study of both is neither possible nor desirable.

According to R.N. Gilchrist, 'Political science relates to the common problems of both the state and the government.'

According to Paul Jenet, 'Political science is the skill of the social science in which the bases of the state and the theories of the government are considered.'

**IV. As the study of state, government and individual-** Writers such as Laski and Herman Hiler have defined political science as the study of the state, government and individual. Study of political science is incomplete without the study of the individual as the political institutions work in the context of personal relations. If political institutions influence the individual's life, thoughts and goals, then his emotions, inspirations and customs and traditions of society also influence political institutions.

(1) In the words of Laski, "The study of Political science is related to the life of the man belonging to organized states."

(2) In the words of Herman Hiler, "The all-round nature of political science is determined by the basic prior beliefs of man."

In short, traditionalistic scholars consider political science as a subject to study the state, government and the individual. Without the state the government cannot be imagined because the government uses the power of the state. Without the government, the state is an abstract imagination and the individual is the primary unit of the state. Therefore, according to the traditional perspective, under the political science, the interconnection of state, government and individual is studied.

## Definition of Political Science: Modern Perspective

The traditional perspective considers political science to be a study of state and government. But modern political scholars consider this to be inadequate because it has been emphasizing the composition of governance and the study of methodology. This led to the study of political science becoming only formal, and no attention was paid to the proper study of those political powers which have an impact on the process of government.

After World War II, there was a revolutionary change in the notion of political science in the United States and the Western world. Chicago was the source of inspiration for it. The scholars of the University of Chicago tried to make political science more and more scientific. All possible attempts were made to bring social sciences such as psychology, philosophy, statistics, economics and anthropology under the leadership of the Charles Merriam. As a result, Logical Positivism, factuality, behaviorism and sociological methods were used in political science. The second source of inspiration of modern political science is psychology. As a result of the efforts of Prof. Renesis Likert, Kurt Levin and Prof. Lazarus Feld, more and more research techniques and methods of Psychology have been stilled in new political science.

It is believed that political science entered the modern era of its development with the establishment of the American Political Science Association in 1905 and as a result of the inspiration given to the collection and classification of facts in relation to political institutions. Since the Second World War, the development of political science can be divided into two periods, the first period is the era of prominence in the field of political science from the period 1945 to 1970, in which political science with the values and standards of political theories Conventional method of linking was discontinued. The second era begins in the 1970s, in which politicians realised the inadequacy of behaviorist politics theory and accepted the idea of re-establishment of standards and values to a certain

extent. These two eras are known as Behaviorism and Post- Behaviorism.

In the context of the new definitions of Political Science, it is studied in the following forms:

- I. Political science is the study of human activity.
- II. Political science is the study of power.
- III. Political science is the study of the political system.
- IV. Political science is the study of decision process.

#### **(1) Political Science: Study of Human Activities-**

Modern Behavioral Scholars consider political science as a science to study human, political life and activities, and in its context the social, economic, religious and other aspects of human life. According to Kettlene, "Political science is related to organized human society, but primarily it studies the political aspects of community life." According to Brendand D. Juvinelle, "This subject studies the political relationships. The political scientists say that political science is in vogue.

**(2) Political science: Study of power-** Some politicians like Shastri consider power as the central concept of political science. Catlin, Laswell, Merriam, Max Weber, Bertnd Russell, and Margesto etc. believe that power is such a basic concept that gives all the depskillments of political science a source. Kaitlyn considered politics a science of power. Guild and Palmer believe that the best kind of relationship between politics and power can be understood. According to Laswell, "The theory of power is a fundamental principle in complete political science, the whole political process is the study of the distribution, experimentation and effectiveness of power."

#### **(3) Political science: Study of the political system**

- Modernist political scholars like David Easton and Amand consider political science a study of the political system. The concept of politics is broader than the concept of state, government and constitution. Under

the political system, the study of informal elements affecting the formal structures of the state and alonwith the government, is also included. Easton has defined the political system: "In such a system, there is a system of interpersonal activities in which the binding or authoritative policy-making in the said society is called a political system."

According to modern political scientists such as Debed Easton and Amand, political science is the study of the entire political system.

#### **(4) Political science: Study of decision making process -**

Some modern scholars consider political science the study of decision making process, because if politics is the study of social science, the main task of the government is to make a decision. Political science can be called science of decision process. In the last few years, decision making theory has become very popular in political science. Thinkers like Herbert Simon consider political science a science of decision making. Laswell considers Political Science to be basically a policy science (World Population Bureau).

From the above analysis it is clear that it is difficult to give a complete definition of political science. Most thinkers believe that in political science, political processes in addition to political society and their consequences should be studied appropriately.

#### **Nature of Political Science**

Political science basically comes in the category of social sciences. Therefore, it is not just realistic objective and value secular science like natural sciences. Although it has been addressed as Political Science, scholars are unanimous on the question whether this subject should be considered as a science. In this regard, Gilchrist has written, "The world's greatest scholar of Political science, Aristotle has called Political science the greatest science", but many modern scholars oppose this claim of political science. On the one hand, thinkers such as Bakhal, Comte, Mateland, Emmas, Beard, Brozen, Burke do not accept political science as science. On the other hand, Aristotle has called it "supreme science" and Bodan, Hobbs,

Montesque, Bryce, Bluntschli, Jelinek, Dr. Finer and Laski etc. too accept political science as science.

Mateland's statement is: "When I look at the examination questions under the title 'Political Science', I am sorry for not asking questions but for the title. "

According to Burke, "In the same way we can not give the name of science to the political science."

Actually, political science is just as factual and valuable as a social science. This is where the symptoms of both skill and science are found.

### **Arguments against political science being a science**

#### **(1) Experiments as in science are not possible**

Experiments as in science are not possible to be supervised and previously predicted about a subject in natural sciences. And then the method of experimentation and supervision is adopted to test the hypothesis of this prediction. But in politics science can be predicted about any subject, but the method of experiment and supervision cannot be adopted to check it. A natural scientist can experiment differently in his laboratory and supervise the activities of substances during the experiment. To reach the right conclusion, he can make his experiment repeatedly. But there is lack of such laboratory in political science and any political experiment in society can be done only once, it cannot be repeated repeatedly.

#### **(2) Lack of ensured relationship between cause and effect -**

There is a sure connection between work and cause in natural sciences, such as, if we heat the water to a certain temperature, it will definitely change into vapor but in political science there is no visible reason for any action or incident.

#### **(3) Lack of unanimous theories –**

There are definite and universal principles in natural sciences, but not in political science, the basic subject of political science is the state, but scholars

have a lot of differences about their method. On one hand, idealistic scholars consider the state as the source of all virtues, whereas anarchist scholars on the other hand consider the state as a source of immorality and injustice and they want to end the state.

#### **(4) Lack of actual measurement and weight –**

In the science, the actions of matter are studied, which are the latest equipment near science to measure purely. But in political science, we study the political views and practices of human beings who affect different emotions, impulses and momentum, which are not possible to measure purely.

#### **(5) Difference in the nature of methodology –**

The study of natural science is the root substance in which there is no consciousness, but the study material of political science is human, which is conscious and does not have the inertia and uniformity of matter in his behavior.

#### **(6) Lack of definite and true prediction –**

The rules of science are ensured and based on them, definite and true prediction can be made about the future event. As science can tell, at what time the solar eclipse will fall, and in what pskills of the world it will appear, but such a definite prediction can not be estimated in political science. Like before any general election, it can not be said precisely how many votes will be given to which political pskillly. In this regard only estimation can be made.

Arguments in favor of political science its being a science - The following arguments are given in favor of science of political science -

**(1) Structured and systematic knowledge-** sort, orderly and classified. Political science reveals state, government, political institutions, concepts and ideologies in this way. It presents the details of the state's origin and development and also offers classified studies based on the political ideologies based on their nature. The facts and figures are also used in the study of this subject.



**(2) Universally approved theories** - There are also many universal principles in political science, such as Lord Acton's statement that is unanimously acknowledged that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts completely". In the same way, the fact is also acknowledged that economic independence is also important as well for political independence for the overall development of a person.

**(3) Cause and effect relationship** - Although, in the case of natural sciences, there can be no established relationship between causality in political science, but some general conclusions can be drawn from the study of special events. As such, on the basis of the study of various revolutions, it can be concluded that revolutionaries are born due to public dissatisfaction arising out of rulers' administrative, inefficiency, political and economic corruption, social discrimination etc.

**(4) Supervision and experimentation possible** - supervision and experimentation in political science is possible. For example, on the basis of the experiment it has been concluded that it is necessary to adopt a democratic government system to establish the fundamental rights of the citizens. Similarly, on the basis of the jurisdiction of different states this result can be concluded that instead of limiting the work area of the state, the policy of public welfare state is only suitable. Experiments can be done in political science, but these experiments are different from natural sciences. There is a definite laboratory in natural science. Whereas the entire human society is a laboratory in political science. Garner's statement is, "The creation of each new law, the establishment of each new institution and the introduction of each new policy is an experiment, because at that time it is accepted as a temporary provision until its results give it a permanent shape.

**(5) Ability to predict** - Although, like many natural sciences, it is not possible to have a predictable prediction in political science, but it can be predicted in the form of estimation that is almost near the truth. In Dr. Finer's words, "We can not make definite prophecies but can express the possibilities." If the veracity of the prophecy is considered to be the criterion

of science, then nature science can not be called science, because of its meteorological predictions that have been proved many times wrong.

It is clear from the above description that there is a difference of opinion among the scholars regarding political science. D.W. Brogan's statement is, "Until we can be masters like Darwin and Mandil in the field of politics, who propounded the theories of politics, we can not call political science a science".

As a social science, political science is also normative science alongwith being realistic science. It is possible to use scientific method in the study of political science, and in the case of other social sciences. In the field of political science, logical and reliable interpretation of the work and the causal relationship is possible.

### Political Science as a Skill

Political science is also an skill in its nature. Since ancient times, Indian politics is like Jupiter, Manu, Shukra, Kautilya have recognized it as an skill of governance and ancient Greek scholars such as Plato also have painted it as a great skill of politics in their treatise "Statesmen". For any science to be an skill, there must be two symptoms in it- it must be possible to apply the theoretical knowledge of the subject in practice first, and secondly, subject should be valued so that it can make life more pleasant. Both of these symptoms are found in political science. So it is a science as well as an skill. Political science uses its theoretical knowledge as the skill of skill and implements its theoretical policies by the administrative organization. There is a fundamental objective behind these efforts and it is to make human life more enjoyable. It does not study just how much the political life has been in the past but it also studies how it is present and how it should be. Political science also has many practical endeavors to implement these ideals and values. So Political science is an skill.

From Plato to the establishment of a fair and crime free society, many scholars have presented their ideologies and have tried to implement the political

principles. The principle of 'public welfare state' has been accepted only to make human life more enjoyable. Political science wishes for the benefit of the entire society. Therefore, while acknowledging the international peace, it accepts the principle of peaceful coexistence and harmony between nations, and the United Nations have been established to achieve this objective.

Political science in its nature is both a science and an skill. Although it is not a natural science, but definitely it is a social science. It is also a great skill in terms of its objectives and actions. In short, it can be said that when political science makes only theoretical studies of its subject, it is science, and when political science applies these principles to increase the happiness of human life, then it is an skill.

### Scope of Political Science

The aspect associated with the scope of the traditionalistic Political science has been presented well by a political conference of UNESCO. According to this conference the following things should be given room in the scope of political science

- (1) The theories of politics - the study of political theories and ideas of past and present.
- (2) Political Institutions - Comparative Studies of the Constitution, National Government, Regional and Local Government.
- (3) Political pskillies, group and Public opinion - Political behavior of political pskillies and groups (pressure groups etc.) and the study of the process of public opinion and pskillicipation of citizens in governance.
- (4) International Relations - Study of International Politics, International Organization and International Administration.

Based on the various traditional political scientists and UNESCO's perspective, the following subject matter can be included in the scope of traditional politics science -

**(1) Study of the political life of man** - According to the traditional perspective, the study of the political side of human life comes in the field of political science. Political science studies the life of a human being in the context of the state. It also studies what powers have been given to the people in the political society by the state and what trades pertaining to the state are followed by the people. It is also studies the fact that the state affects the policies of the state for individuals.

**(2) Study of the state** - From ancient times to the present, state has gone through various stages of development. Hence, political science studies the state in the context of different periods. It studies the state's past, present and future. What is this state, how the state is and how the state should also be studied. According to Getty, "Political Science is the historical explanation of 'how the state is', analytical study of 'how is the state' and the political and moral hypothesis of 'what the state should be'."

The state's past study can be understood by the early forms of political institutions and their various stages of development. By studying the present state, those processes can be understood which can obstruct the way in which people and social values like peace system, security, happiness etc., can be understood by present challenges. The state's future study means the study that is based on the past and present study. The nature and organization of future political institutions should be determined in such a way that they can achieve the objectives of the individual and the society.

**(3) Study of the government** - works through the state government, the government reveals the will of the state, executes it and attempts to achieve its accomplishment. Therefore, a major theme of the study of political science is the government. Under the political science, the ancient and modern forms of government are studied. In different countries, the existing system of governance is studied and various pskills of the governance, administrative, executive and judiciary and their interpersonal relations, administration, political processes etc. are studied.

**(4) Study of local and national problems** - Political science studies local and national problems and suggests solutions to these problems. It studies local self-government, organization of organizations, methodology and workspace. Political science resolves disaster problems in the path of national integration, integrity and development and suggests solutions for its solution.

**(5) Study of political ideologies** - From ancient times to modern times, many political ideologies have been developed. These ideologists have considered the realistic and idealistic values of politics. By them, the origin, nature, and actions of the state were considered and they shared their views on the laws, freedom, equality etc. besides the interaction of the state and the individual. A comparative study of political science of various ideologies such as idealism, individualism, anarchism, fascism, socialism, communism and pluralism etc. is used in the history of political science and it is seen how in the past these ideologies affected human life.

**(6) Study of International Aspect** - Political science does not study any one state; No state remains in zero and it is also to have relations with other states under which various states make mutual agreements and treaties. These interpersonal relations of the states are called international relations. No state can ignore this international environment. Therefore, international relations are also studied under political science.

**(7) Study of political skillies and pressure groups** - Political pskillies and pressure groups have special significance in governance in the modern era. Political pskillies pskillicipate in elections and build the government while the pressure groups influence the policies of the government secretly and indirectly. Political pskillies and pressure groups play active roles in the creation of public opinion. Therefore, both of these studies are included in the field of political science.

**(8) Study of Diplomacy and international law** - Reciprocal relations of states basically depend on the states' foreign policy and diplomacy skills. Therefore,

politics studies diplomacy. Though every state is universal and its boundaries are determined, there are many topics like war and peace questions, sea coast, open sea extradition, which the state does not fix itself. These subjects are fixed in the context of other states and the method of determining them is called the international method. Therefore, international law is also studied in political science.

It is clear from the above description that the area of political science is very broad. In its field, the past, present and future of state and government is studied. It is studied in political philosophy, political ideologies, political processes, relations of state and individual, international law and diplomacy etc. Humans are a changing creature. Therefore, in order to make political science rational, changes, challenges and problems have also to be studied.

### **Scope of Political Science: Modern Perspective**

The new perspective that arose in the field of Political Science after the second world war is wider and more realistic. Though it began in the times of Aristotle when on the basis of the comparative study of the various constitutions, he dealt with the functions of the various types of government. In the words of Charles Ainemon, 'Now the scope of Political science has grown so wide that the institutional, organization, decision making, processes of activism, politics of control, policies and functions and the humanistic environment of lawful administration have stskilled to be included in it.

The modern political science does not begin and end with state. It neither accepts the boundaries of the states nor wants to study the political problems through descriptive, historical, normative and legal methods. According to the modern political scientists, the subjects of study of political science are- the political man and his conduct, role of group and its conduct, administration, international politics, ideologies, values, economics, sociology, military science etc.

The main supporters of the modern perspective are Catlin, Laswel, Robert Dahl and Fromen etc. According to the modern perspective, the following should be included in the scope of political science-

**(1) Study of political behavior of man-** According to the modern approach, political science of the political science of the field of politics is predominantly human, but political influence of human beings influences political factors as well as many non-political factors. Therefore, in order to understand the political behavior of human beings in a precise and correct way, it is essential that the study area of political science should include the study of those political and non-political feelings, beliefs and powers which affect and determine the political behavior of a person.

**(2) Study of various concepts -** The modern approach is primarily a science related to power, power, influence, control and decision making. Therefore, in these study areas, scientific studies of these concepts are also included. Modern political scientists believe that there are basic concepts in which political organizations operate in the background itself. They study political institutions in the context of these concepts.

**(3) Study of conflict and consent in the context of public issues -** public problems mean the problems that affect the whole society or its large part. That is why, these problems are considered part of politics and their study becomes a subject matter of political science. According to Miran and Benfield, "All activities that make any problem conflicts or find solutions to it are politics." Thus, according to the basic approach, the subject matter is the study of the tendency of conflict and consent on public issues of political importance.

It is evident from the above description that there is a difference between supporters of the modern approach to the scope of political science studies, but they all agree that the study area of political science should be realistic and in its study the use of differential disciplinary approaches and scientific approaches are needed.

**Difference between the traditional and modern approaches to the study area -** the difference between the traditional and modern approaches to the study area of political science can be expressed in the following form –

**(1) Difference of the period -** Traditional approaches related to the study area of political science was predominantly about before World War II. But after the Second World War clearly developed the modern approach and it has become more popular at present.

**(2) Difference in Form-** According to the inter-conventional approach in the form of political science, the study of the organization and activities of the state, government and political institutions and the interpersonal relations of the individual and the state should also be done in statutory manner. The modern approach is that the political behavior of a person should be studied in the study area of political science and the study of all political institutions should also be done from the behaviorist perspective.

**(3) Difference in subject matter -** Conventional approach, considering political science as a complete science, studies the subject matter of political science mainly in political terms and does not consider it necessary and appropriate to take help of other social sciences. The modern approach involves the political behavior of predominantly human in the field of political science. But he is of the opinion that many political emotions and powers also influence the political behavior of human beings, which are concerned with social science like psychology, economics and sociology. Therefore, the help of other social sciences should also be taken for the study of human behavior. Thus the traditional approach is 'a disciplinary approach' while the modern approach is 'inter-disciplinary approach'.

**(4) Formal and informal studies-** Conventional approach studies political institutions primarily in legal and political terms, which are called formal studies, but modern approaches study political institutions in the context of those processes and effects which these



political institutions Affects and which can also be non-political by nature. In this way the modern approach unofficial studies of political science.

**(5) Difference in Methodology-** The inter-conventional approach in the study methodology mainly uses historical, philosophical and comparative methods for the study of political science. Therefore, his study becomes idealistic and objective, which makes his study method unscientific. Modern approach uses scientific methods of social sciences for the study of political science such as statistical, mathematical, and survey methods. These methods are realistic, which use realistic value-based and objective perspectives for the study. So the modern approach is considered to be a scientific method.

**(6) The difference in the degree of authenticity and certainty -** Although both approaches are incomplete in terms of authenticity and determinism, the study method of modern approaches is more scientific than conventional approach.

### **Characteristics of Modern Political Science**

After World War II, the main trends of development which have taken place in the field of political science and other social sciences can be mentioned in the following forms.

**(1) Open studies -** Nowadays political scientist study beyond the traditional boundaries. All political and formal incidents have now become the subject of study of politics, whether they are related to sociology, economics or religion, or related to the individual, family, nation and the world. Even the political tendencies developed in childhood and puberty etc at the individual and collective level are also made subject to survey and research. Researchers have this feeling that real situations should be studied and they should be the basis of concepts that reveal reality.

**(2) Scientific -** Modern political scholars want to make their studies more scientific, they examine the political events and facts on the scientific criteria. He uses his politics in science about new techniques of study from natural sciences and other social sciences.

**(3) Free from values -** In political analysis, no place is given to human values such as ethics, freedom, fraternity etc. because its endeavor is to create a legal and accurate subject. It makes the subject of study the same phenomena and facts that have either been seen or seen in the future.

**(4) Realistic studies -** Traditional studies of political science were often confined to historical, legal and institutional structures, and they were attached to ideological, instructional position and were tangled in theoretical problems only to a great extent. Modern political scientists expressed strong conviction that political studies should have a direct connection to the practical politics. From the latter part of the nineteenth century, some scholars of political science have understood this truth that the importance of reality is more than ideal. Now the scholars of political science started the search for the fact where the actual source of power and center is located in the society. How is the ruling class exercising its powers and how is the political behavior of the governed class? The place of study of traditional, institutional structures has now been taken by trends to understand the political processes and now extensive studies related to political parties, pressure, groups, means of communication and voting behavior etc. have been started.

**(5) Behavioral approach -** Modern political perspective emphasizes the adoption of behavioral approach. Traditional political science is far from politics. Behaviorism is an attempt to empower political science as a political science, and not as philosophy, history, or law,. The biggest feature of behaviorism is the use of theory. In this, the discovery of the facts and their interpretation is done under a theory.

**(6) Value free and scientific method -** The behaviorist revolution in political science came after World War II. Political science has adopted many research trends from various social sciences and natural sciences to make itself science. The scientific method has been given a prominent position in the new methods, along with scientific value absolutism.

**(7) Close Relationship between research and theories-** Now the political scientists are busy with the formulation of scientifically generalized interpretations and theories through the use of scientific method. These theories are based on rigorous research processes. So the process of theory formulation is now research oriented. Research and theories are meaningless without each other. The only goal of modern politicians is to develop the theoretical paradigms of politics.

**(8) Inter-disciplinary approach –** In the modern political science, the interdisciplinary approach was also adopted. The authors have used many such tools as they have borrowed from social sciences like psychology, economics, science of human development. As a result political science now appears like political psychology and political sociology. Political modernization, political socialization, political culture and political development and studies of several similar subjects show that now in the political science, social sciences and psychological approaches have been applied to the study of the behavior of government and other political structures. According to Lipset, “Contemporary political theory is more a political social science, Psychology and normative political theory than a political process.

**(9) Rise in the form of a fundamental social science :** Modern political science wants to develop itself as a link to the social sciences so that it can give important guidelines to different subjects. Political scientists have the same sense of working as Aristotle, Newton and Darwin had. For this, they want to develop expertise in specific areas. They want to bring subject autonomy. For this, general system theory and system approach have been adopted. Being related to control and regulation, the fundamentality of politics itself is proven.

#### **4. Distinction between Traditional and Modern Political Science**

For the study in the modern age, the entire political science is divided into two parts: traditional political science and modern political science. When

we study political science in the context of conventional beliefs, it is called traditional political science, but when we study political science in the context of modern beliefs, then it is called modern political science. The study of this whole political science has two perspectives, traditional and modern. Traditional political science is imaginative and in this case it is normative. Modern political science is behavioral and hence, scientific. In the words of Andrew Hacker, “Traditional Political Science is chiefly normative. Modern political science is primarily behavioral, and therefore its exponents look like political scientists. “

In brief, there are mainly the following differences between traditional political science and modern political science –

**(1) Difference in relation to definitions:** Traditional thinkers consider political science as a science of study of state and government. According to Garner, “Political begins and ends with state.” In contrast, modern behaviorist thinkers consider the political behavior of political science rather than state as the subject of political science. They consider political science as a science of power and authority. In the words of Laswell and Caplain, “Political science is a study of the use of splitting power and forming mill as a behavioral subject.” William Rockson writes: “The main interest of politics is very clear, It focuses on achieving power, maintaining it, using it, influencing others, or preventing others’ influence.”

**(2) Difference in relation to the scope -** In traditional political science, the works of the past, present and future of the state, the skills of governance, the form of governance and the work of governance are studied. Traditionalists make all these institutional studies. On the other hand, modern behaviorist political scientists do not study institutions, rather, in such a study, they prefer to study the legislature or the structure of Parliament.

**(3) Difference in relation to Nature-** The traditional and the modern political science maintain difference in relation to the nature of Political science. There are

some traditionalist thinkers who are not ready to put political science in the category of science.

Buckle had the idea: "In the present state of knowledge, political science can not be called a science as it is the least of all the skills." In contrast, the modern political scientists are in favor of considering political science a complete science. Merriam stressed in his writings that the development of scientific techniques and technologies in political science is the greatest demand of time. The scholars, such as, Kaitlyn, Herald Lavell and Carl D.H. have been striving in proving that political science is basically a science and it is related to scientific analysis of political institutions.

**(4) Difference in relation to study methods-**The methodology used by the traditional political scientists are quite ancient and unrefined. They have got the support of the philosophical method, historical method and comparative method, while the modern political scientists have emphasized on the study of politics through modern tools. They analyze and interpret human political practices and related emotive truths. Modern political scholars are trying to make political science a science by using numerical methodology, empirical methodology, system analysis methodology and interdisciplinary methodology.

**(5) Difference in relation to values** - Traditionalist Political scientists believe in values. They believe in idealism and ethics while modern or behaviorist thinkers claim valuefreeness. Accordingly, scientists conduct scientific studies and research by keeping themselves away from moral feelings, values, ideals and biases.

**(6) Difference in relation to objectives-** it is the notion of traditionalists that the purpose of political science is to pave the way for better life. In contrast, modern behaviorist thinkers believe that the purpose of political science is to acquire knowledge for knowledge. They put more emphasis on the procedures. According to them, the political scientist is not only to be a dumb spectator but also to try to solve problems.

## Important Points

### Political Science: Definition, Nature and Scope

In the traditional approach, politics is defined in three ways.

As a study of state

As a study of government

As a study of state, government and individual

### Nature of Political Science

In fact, politics science is both factual and valued both in the social sciences. This is where the symptoms of both skill and science are found.

Arguments against the science of political science

- (1) Science is not possible and the use of observation is not possible,
- (2) lack of due relation in causation,
- (3) lack of universal principles,
- (4) lack of pure measurement,
- (5) the difference in the nature of the study material,
- (6) the lack of definite and true prediction.

Arguments in favor of science of political science

- (1) systematic knowledge,
- (2) universal principles,
- (3) interpersonal relationships
- (4) supervision and experimentation possible,
- (5) the ability to predict

While expanding the meaning of Political Science, Catleen believes in skill, philosophy and science.

### 3. Scope of political science

- (1) the study of the political life of the human, (2) the study of the state, (3) the study of the government, (4) the study of local and national problems, (5) the study of political ideologies, (6) (7) Study of political pskillies

and pressure groups, (8) Diplomacy and international law study.

### **1. Definition of Political Science: Modern Perspective**

In the context of the new definitions of politics, it is studied in the following forms:

1. Political science is the study of human actions.
2. Political science is the study of power.
3. Political science is the study of the political system.
4. Political science is the study process decision process.

### **2. Scope of Political Science: Modern Perspective**

According to the modern political scientists - political man and his behavior, role of the group and his behavior, administration, international politics, ideology, value, economics, sociology and military science etc. are subject to the study of political science.

- (1) the study of the political behavior of human,
- (2) the study of different concepts,
- (3) the study of conflict and consent in the context of public problems

### **3. Study methods or characteristics of modern political science**

After World War II, the main trends of development which have taken place in the field of political science and other social sciences can be mentioned in the following forms.

- (1) Open study, (2) scientifically, (3) value-free, (4) realistic study, (5) behavioral outlook, (6) scientific method, (7) research and close relations in theory, (8) Difference in disciplinary approach, (9) emergence as a fundamental social science

### **4. Difference in Traditional and Modern Political Science**

In essence, there are mainly the following differences in traditional political science and modern political science – (1) Definition of difference, (2) Subject field difference, (3) Difference in nature, (4) Difference in the study methodology, (5) Difference in respect to values, (6) The difference in relation to the objectives .

## **Important Questions**

### **Objective questions**

1. “Political science begins with the state and ends on the state” This definition has been given  
(A) by Garner (B) by Bluntly  
(C) by Sele (D) by Lacac ( )
2. Which thinker has considered political science ‘complete’ or ‘supreme science’ ?  
(A) Aristotle (B) Plato  
(C) Gandhi (D) Machiavali ( )
3. Why is Political Science called a science?  
(A) Connection of the principles  
(B) Guarantee of decisions  
(C) Predicting the results  
(D) systematic study ( )
4. Traditional approach of political science was centered mainly  
(A) on government and state studies  
(B) on the study of strength and validity  
(C) on the study of political system  
(D) on the study of political processes ( )
5. ‘Political science is a science related to the government.’ ‘This definition is given -



- (A) Gilchrist      (B) Sele  
(C) Lacac          (D) None of the above

6. What is not included in the scope of Traditional Political science –

- (A) Study of state  
(B) Government study  
(C) Study of political pskillies and pressure groups  
(D) Study of conflict and consent in the context of public problems

7. Which of the following logics confirms that Political science is not a science?

- (A) Political science presents a systematic and systematic knowledge of the subject matter of its study.  
(B) Political science expresses cause and effect relations  
(C) The lack of universal principles in political science  
(D) supervision and experimentation in political science is possible

#### **Very short questions (word limit 20 words)**

1. From which word of which language did the word 'politics' originate? Tell the meaning of that word.
2. In what sense is Aristotle expressing the word 'politics'?
3. In what sense is the term politics used in modern times?
4. What is the Laski's definition of political science?
5. Name four political scientists who consider political science science.
6. Which ancient Indian scholars have recognized political science as an skill of governance?

#### **Short answer question (word limit 100 words)**

1. Describe the main characteristics of the traditionalist perspective of political science.
2. Describe the characteristics of the modern perspective of political science.
3. How does the modern approach make political science a science?
4. Give two arguments in confirmation that political science can not be classified as science.
5. How does Herbert Simon explain political science?

#### **Essay-Type questions**

1. Reflect the nature of political science in the context of traditional and modern approaches.
2. Explain the difference in traditional and modern political science.
3. Explain the traditional and modern approaches in the context of the meaning, nature and scope of political science.
4. Write an essay on the modern approach to political science.
5. Examine the idea if political science is both skill and science.

#### **Answer: Objective Question :**

1. (a)    2 (a)    3 (d)    4 (a)  
5 (c)    6 (d)    7 (c)