

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SYLLABUS FOR Ph.D. ENTRANCE TEST

(International Relations/Political Science)

Maximum Marks: 70

Part I: Research Methodology (Marks: 35)

Module I: Basics of Research

- Meaning, scope, and significance of research in social sciences.
- Objectives and types of research: descriptive, explanatory, analytical, normative, comparative.
- Identification and formulation of research problems.
- Hypothesis: types, formulation, and testing.
- Literature review and identifying research gaps.

Module II: Research Design and Methodology

- Research methods and research methodologies.
- Types of research design: qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods.
- Sampling techniques and sample size determination.
- Case study, process tracing, discourse analysis, comparative method.

Module III: Data Collection and Processing

- Primary and secondary sources in Political Science and IR research.
- Archival research, fieldwork, interviews, participant observation, surveys.
- Opinion polls, interviews, ethnography.
- Data processing, classification, coding, and tabulation.

Module IV: Advanced Research Approaches

- Positivist and post-positivist traditions.
- Rational choice, historical institutionalism, and constructivist approaches.
- Triangulation and interdisciplinary approaches in IR and Political Science.

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Part II: Subject Specific (International Relations/Political Science) (Marks: 35)

Module I: International Relations

- Major IR theories: Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism, Critical Theory, Feminism, Postcolonialism.
- Concepts: balance of power, collective security, hegemony, interdependence, sovereignty, globalization.
- Cold War, post-Cold War, and changing global order.
- Emerging multipolarity and great power politics.
- Role of non-state actors: NGOs, MNCs, epistemic communities, transnational networks.

Module II: Indian Foreign Policy

- Foundations of Indian Foreign Policy: Historical legacies, principles of non-alignment, Panchsheel, strategic autonomy.
- Institutions and Decision-Making: Role of the Prime Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, Parliament, think tanks, and media.
- Key Bilateral Relations: India's relations with the U.S., China, Russia, EU, and key neighbours.
- India and Multilateralism: Role in UN, SAARC, BRICS, G20, SCO, QUAD.
- Nuclear Policy: Evolution, No-First-Use doctrine, civil nuclear cooperation.
- India as an Emerging Power: Global aspirations, great power competition, Indo-Pacific strategy.

Module III: Key Concepts in Politics

- The State and Sovereignty: Theories of the state; sovereignty and challenges to sovereignty in the age of globalization.
- Nation, Nationalism, and Nation-Building: Concepts, theories, and debates.
- Power, Authority, and Legitimacy: Classical and contemporary perspectives.
- Democracy and Representation: Direct, representative, participatory, and deliberative forms; electoral systems and representation.

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- Rights, Liberty, and Equality: Theories of rights; negative and positive liberty; forms of equality and contemporary debates.
- Justice and Citizenship: Theories of justice; Citizenship—liberal, republican, and cosmopolitan perspectives
- Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Feminism, Environmentalism, and Postcolonial perspectives.

Module IV: Contemporary Global Issues

- Globalization and Its Discontents: Debates on inequality, populism, nationalism, and anti-globalization movements.
- International Political Economy: Trade regimes, financial crises, debt politics, development gaps, North–South and South–South cooperation.
- Global Security Challenges: Traditional (interstate conflict, nuclear proliferation, arms control, great power rivalry) Non-Traditional (terrorism, cyber threats, pandemics, climate change, migration).
- Regional and Transnational Cooperation: EU, ASEAN, SAARC, AU, BRICS, QUAD, and Indo-Pacific frameworks.
- Emerging Issues: Human rights, humanitarian intervention, Responsibility to Protect (R2P), gender and security (WPS agenda), artificial intelligence and warfare.