

# *Approaches to the Study of Public Administration*

*I - M.A(Public Administration) / I - Semester*

Author

**Dr. P. Subramanyam**

Department of Political Science and Political Administration  
S V University  
Tirupati - 517 502, A.P



**Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University**

**Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, India**

[www.drbraouap.org](http://www.drbraouap.org)

Year : 2026

Edition : First

All rights reserved. No part of this publication which is material protected by this copyright notice may be reproduced or transmitted or utilized or stored in any form or by any means now known or hereinafter invented, electronic, digital or mechanical, including photocopying, scanning, recording or by any information storage or retrieval system, without prior written permission from the Publisher.



**Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University**

**Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, India**

**[www.drabraouap.org](http://www.drabraouap.org)**

## *Approaches to the Study of Public Administration*

---

---

### **Program Educational Objectives (PEOs)**

To acquire knowledge about state and civil society. It covers the scope, meaning and concepts, perspectives and spectrums of political power, influence and management.

### **Program Specific Outcomes (PSOs)**

At the end of the course, the student learns about Political Science, State, Power and forms of Government

- I. Political Science
  - a) Meaning, Nature, Scope and Significance
  - b) Relationship of Political Science with other Social Sciences Economics, Public Administration, History, Sociology, Psychology, and Ethics etc.
- II. Approaches
  - a) State and Sovereignty - Meaning, Definition & Issues
  - b) Behavioural Approach & Systems Approach
- III. Major Concepts
  - (a) Power, law and Rights
  - (b) Liberty and Equality - their relationship
- IV. Forms of Government
  - (a) Democracy – Direct and Indirect
  - (b) Parliamentary and Presidential form of Government

### **Selected Readings**

1. Michael Has & Henry S. Kariel (ed). Approaches to the Study of Political Science, Chandler, 1988.
2. David E. Apter, Introduction to Political Analysis, Prentice Hall, 1984.
3. Freeman (ed). Foundations of Political Science-Research, Methods and Scope, The Free Press, 1977.
4. Jessica Kuper, Political Science and Political Theory, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987
5. Charles E. Merriam, New Aspects of Politics, University of Chicago Press, 1990.
6. Bernard Crick, In Defense of Politics, Penguin Press, 1982.
7. Robert A. Dahl, Modern Political Analysis, Prentice Hall, 1986.
8. Bains and Jain, Political Science in Transaction, Geetanjali, 1981.
9. Grenstein and Polsby, Political Science, Addisin-Wesely, 1985.
10. William Meyer, The Political Experience, Kreiger Publishing Co, 1987.

## *Approaches to the Study of Public Administration*

### **Unit-I: Political Science**

1.0	Unit Objectives	2
1.1	Introduction	2
1.2	Meaning of Political Science	2
1.3	Scope of Political Science	5
1.4	Nature of Political Science	6
1.4.1	Meaning of Science and Art	6
1.4.2	Politics is a Science	6
1.4.3	Politics is not a Science	7
1.4.4	Politics is a Social Science	7
1.4.5	Politics is an Art	8
1.5	Importance of study of Political Science	8
1.5.1	Significance and Utility of Studying Political Science	9
1.6	Relationship with other Social Sciences	10
1.6.1	Political Science and History	10
1.6.2	Political Science and Economics	11
1.6.3	Political Science and Sociology	11
1.6.4	Political Science and Public Administration	12
1.6.5	Political Science and Ethics	13
1.7	Relevance of Political Science to the study of Law	14
1.8	Approaches and Methods or Techniques of the Study of Political Science	15
1.8.1	Traditional Approaches	16
1.8.2	Modern Approaches Sociological Approach	17
1.9	Methods of study of Political Science	22
1.10	Political Theory	24
1.11	Political Theory: Nature	25
1.11.1	Political Theory and Political Thought	25
1.11.2	Political theory and Political Philosophy	25
1.11.3	Political theory and Political Science	26
1.12	Characteristics of Political Theory	26

1.13	Significance of Political Theory	28
1.14	Major Approaches of Political Theory	29
1.14.1	Classical Approach	29
1.14.2	Liberal Approach	30
1.14.3	Marxist Approach	31
1.14.4	Empirical Scientific Approach	32
1.14.5	Contemporary Approach	34
1.15	Check your Progress	35
1.16	Outcomes	36
1.17	Key Terms	36
1.18	Answer to ‘Check Your Progress’	36
1.19	Questions and Exercise	37
1.20	Further Readings	38
<b>Unit-II: Approaches</b>		
2.0	Unit Objectives	44
2.1	Introduction	44
2.2	Meaning and Definition of the State	44
2.2.1	Characteristics of a State	45
2.2.2	Functions of the State	46
2.3	Elements of the State	47
2.4	Origin of State	48
2.4.1	The Elements of the Origin of the State	48
2.4.2	Distinction Between the State and other Associations	50
2.4.3	Is this Distinction Real?	51
2.5	Nature of the State: Different Theories	51
2.5.1	The Liberal Theory	51
2.5.2	The Marxist Theory	53
2.5.3	The Gandhian Theory	54
2.6	Sovereignty	55
2.6.1	What is Sovereignty?	56
2.6.2	Characteristics of Sovereignty	57
2.6.3	Development of the Idea of Sovereignty	58
2.6.4	Legal and Political Sovereignty	58

2.6.5	Location of Sovereignty	59
2.6.6	De Jure and De Facto Sovereignty	61
2.6.7	Limitations on Sovereignty	62
2.7	Behavioral Approach	63
2.8	Systems Approach	65
2.8.1	Genesis of the Systems Approach	65
2.8.2	Historical Context	66
2.8.3	General Systems Theory and Systems Theory	66
2.8.4	Derivatives of the Systems Analysis	68
2.9	Systems Theory: An Evaluation	72
2.9.1	Strength of the Systems Approach	73
2.10	Check your Progress	73
2.11	Outcomes	74
2.12	Key Terms	74
2.13	Answer to ‘Check your Progress’	75
2.14	Questions and Exercise	75
2.15	Further Readings	76
<b>Unit-III: Major Concepts</b>		
3.0	Unit Objectives	82
3.1	Introduction	82
3.2	Concept of Power	82
3.2.1	Importance of Power in an Organisation	84
3.2.2	Sources of Power	84
3.2.3	Process of Obtaining Power	86
3.2.4	Concept of Organisational Politics	87
3.2.5	Types of Political Behaviour	87
3.2.6	Factors Influencing Organisational Politics	88
3.2.7	The basis of Organisational Politics	89
3.3	Meaning and Definition of Law	90
3.3.1	Basic Principles of Law	91
3.4	Rights	97
3.4.1	Rights, Claims and Powers	97
3.4.2	Meaning of Rights	98

3.4.3	Nature of Rights	99
3.5	Theories of Rights	100
3.5.1	Theory of Natural Rights	100
3.5.2	Theory of Legal Rights	101
3.5.3	The Historical Theory of Rights	101
3.5.4	The Social Welfare Theory of Rights	102
3.5.5	The Marxist Theory of Rights	102
3.5.6	Framework of Rights	103
3.6	Liberty	106
3.6.1	J.S. Mill's Notion of Liberty	107
3.6.2	Isaiah Berlin and the two Concepts of Liberty	109
3.6.3	Marxist Critique and the Idea of Freedom	109
3.7	Equality	111
3.7.1	Dimensions of Equality	113
3.7.2	Relation of Equality with Liberty	117
3.8	Check Your Progress	121
3.9	Outcomes	121
3.10	Key Terms	121
3.11	Answers to 'Check Your Progress'	122
3.12	Questions to Exercise	123
3.13	Further Readings	124
<b>Unit-IV: Forms of Government</b>		
4.0	Unit Objectives	130
4.1	Introduction	130
4.2	Democracy	130
4.2.1	Procedural/minimalist and Substantive/maximalist Dimension	133
4.2.2	Types of Democracy	134
4.2.3	Indian Democracy at a Glance	136
4.3	What is Direct Democracy	138
4.3.1	Principles Governing Direct Democracy	141
4.3.2	Merits of Direct Democracy	142
4.3.3	Limitations of Direct Democracy	142
4.3.4	Direct Democracy in Modern Times	142

4.4	Indirect Democracy or Representative Democracy	143
4.4.1	Synonymous with Electoral Democracy	143
4.4.2	Various Views on Representative and its Limits Democracy	143
4.4.3	Fundamental Principles of Representative Democracy	144
4.4.4	Representative Democracy in Practice	145
4.4.5	Democracy and Elections	147
4.4.6	Democracy and Public Opinion	149
4.4.7	Gender and Democracy: Participation and Representation	150
4.4.8	Democracy and Internet	151
4.5	Meaning and Features of Parliamentary System	152
4.5.1	Two Executive Heads	152
4.5.2	Fusion of the Executive and Legislature	153
4.5.3	Collective Responsibility	153
4.5.4	Leadership of the Head of Government	153
4.5.5	Absence of Fixed Terms	154
4.5.6	Formation of Government in Parliamentary Systems	155
4.6	Meaning and Features of Presidential System	155
4.6.1	Single Head	156
4.6.2	Separation of Powers	156
4.6.3	President and Cabinet Members	156
4.6.4	Law-making Authority	157
4.6.5	Fixed Terms of Offices	157
4.7	Advantages and Disadvantages of Parliamentary and Presidential System	157
4.7.1	Advantages and Disadvantages of Parliamentary Systems	158
4.7.2	Advantages and Disadvantages of Presidential Systems	158
4.8	Check Your Progress	159
4.9	Outcomes	160
4.10	Key Terms	160
4.11	Answer to ‘Check Your Progress’	160
4.12	Questions and Exercise	161
4.13	Further Readings	162