

POLITICAL SCIENCE SEC CBCS Syllabus for Odd Semesters
Semester I, Semester III, Semester V

SEC 1

PUBLIC OPINION AND SURVEY RESEARCH

1. Introduction to the course

Definition and characteristics of public opinion, conceptions and characteristics, debates about its role in a democratic political system, uses for opinion poll.

2. Measuring Public Opinion with Surveys: Representation and sampling

a. What is sampling? Why do we need to sample? Sample design.

b. Sampling error and non-response

c. Types of sampling: Non random sampling (quota, purposive and snowball sampling); random sampling: simple and stratified

3. Survey Research

a. Interviewing: Interview techniques pitfalls, different types of and forms of interview

b. Questionnaire: Question wording; fairness and clarity.

4. Quantitative Data Analysis

a. Introduction to quantitative data analysis

b. Basic concepts: correlational research, causation and prediction, descriptive and inferential Statistics

5. Interpreting polls

(a) Prediction in polling research: possibilities and pitfalls

Even Semesters

Semester II, Semester IV, Semester VI

SEC 2 DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL AWARENESS

1. Outline of the Legal system in India:

(a) System of courts/tribunals and their jurisdiction in India - criminal and civil courts, writ jurisdiction, specialized courts such as juvenile courts, Mahila courts and tribunals.

(b) Role of the police and executive in criminal law administration.

(c) Alternate dispute mechanisms such as lokadalats, non- formal mechanisms.

2. Brief understanding of the laws applicable in India

(a) Constitution - fundamental rights, fundamental duties, other constitutional rights and their manner of enforcement, with emphasis on public interest litigation and the expansion of certain rights under Article 21 of the Constitution.

(b) Laws relating to criminal jurisdiction - provision relating to filing an FIR, arrest, bail search and seizure and some understanding of the questions of evidence and procedure in Cr. P.C. and related laws, important offences under the Indian Penal Code, offences against women, juvenile justice, prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes., Concepts like Burden of Proof, Presumption of Innocence, Principles of Natural Justice, Fair comment under Contempt laws.

(c) Personal laws in India : Pluralism and Democracy

(d) Laws relating to contract, property and tenancy laws.

(e) Laws relating to dowry, sexual harassment and violence against women

(f) Laws relating to consumer rights

(g) Laws relating to cyber crimes

(h) Anti-terrorist laws: implications for security and human rights

3. Practical application: Visit to either a (i) court or (ii) a legal aid centre set up by the Legal Services Authority or an NGO or (iii) a LokAdalat, and to interview a litigant or person being counselled. Preparation of a case history.

4. Access to courts and enforcement of rights

(a) Critical Understanding of the Functioning of the Legal System

(b) Legal Services Authorities Act and right to legal aid, ADR systems

(c) Practical application: What to do if you are arrested ; if you are a consumer with a grievance; if you are a victim of sexual harassment; domestic violence, child abuse, caste, ethnic and religious discrimination; filing a public interest litigation. How can you challenge administrative orders that violate rights, judicial and administrative remedies

5. Using a hypothetical case of (for example) child abuse or sexual harassment or any other violation of a right, preparation of an FIR or writing a complaint addressed to the appropriate authority.

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