

Lesson Two

The Concept of the State

While, the origin of the word 'state' can be traced back to Greeks, Romans and medieval period, in 16th century Machiavelli used the word 'stato' for state. Moreover, in any political analysis, state has always been central so much so that that politics is often understood as the study of the state. Over the years, the meaning of state has transformed significantly. It is now commonly defined as a community of persons, occupying a definite territory, possessing an organized government which administers law over all people within its jurisdiction. This shows that a state must consist of four elements: Population, territory, Government and sovereignty. The last element signifies the supremacy of the state over all individuals and associations within it and the independence of the state from external control. Absoluteness, Universality, Permanence and Indivisibility are characteristics of sovereignty.

Questions:

* Multiple Choice Questions:

1. The origin of the word 'state' can be traced back to:

- A) The Renaissance period
- B) The Greeks, Romans, and medieval period
- C) The Industrial Revolution
- D) The Enlightenment

2. Who used the word 'stato' for state in the 16th century?

- A) Aristotle
- B) Hobbes
- C) Machiavelli
- D) Plato

3. In political analysis, the state is considered:

- A) A minor concept
- B) The central focus
- C) A historical idea only
- D) A cultural symbol

4. Over the years, the meaning of the state has:

- A) Remained the same
- B) Disappeared completely
- C) Transformed significantly
- D) Lost its importance

5. According to the text, a state is defined as:

- A) A group of nations sharing similar culture
- B) A community of persons with territory and government
- C) Any organized group of people

D) A group of tribes under one leader

6. How many essential elements must a state have?

A) Three

B) Four

C) Five

D) Six

7. Which of the following is not an element of the state?

A) Population

B) Territory

C) Economy

D) Government

8. What does sovereignty signify?

A) Dependence on other states

B) Supremacy and independence of the state

C) The equality of all states

D) A weak political structure

9. Which of the following is a characteristic of sovereignty?

A) Temporariness

B) Divisibility

C) Absoluteness

D) Relativity

10. Politics is often understood as:

A) The study of government only

B) The study of laws only

C) The study of the state

D) The study of war

***Answer the following questions**

1. Who used the word 'stato' for state in the 16th century?

2. According to the text, why has the state always been central in political analysis?

3. What are the four essential elements of a state mentioned in the text?

4. What does the term 'sovereignty' signify according to the passage?

5. List the four characteristics of sovereignty described in the text.

Grammar Exercises

Fill in the blank:

1. The modern state _____ (characterize) by sovereignty.

2. Rewrite in the passive voice: Citizens elect the government.

3. Choose the correct form: The state (play / plays) a key role in protecting human rights.

4. Make this sentence negative: The government is temporary.