INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EAST AFRICA
'Learning to Succeed'

FACULTY OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS - DECEMBER 2025

PROGRAMME: BPA
YEAR/SEM: YEAR 1/SEMESTER 1
COURSE CODE: PAD 1102
NAME: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

DATE:
TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

SECTION A

This section is compulsory and consists of four structured case study questions, each carrying 10 marks, for a total of 40 marks. Read each scenario carefully and respond comprehensively to all the accompanying questions. Your answers should demonstrate a clear understanding of key political theories, concepts, and their application to real-world governance contexts. Where appropriate, support your arguments with relevant examples, scholarly references, and critical analysis to show depth of understanding and originality of thought

Question 1:

Justice and Governance in the Modern State

In recent years, East African countries such as Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania have embarked on significant governance reforms intended to strengthen justice, transparency, and the rule of law. These reforms—often inspired by democratic ideals and constitutional principles—seek to create systems where political power is exercised for the common good and citizens enjoy equal access to opportunities and resources. Yet, despite these efforts, the region continues to grapple with persistent governance challenges. Corruption, political favouritism, and systemic inequality remain deeply entrenched within public institutions, undermining both trust and legitimacy.

Citizens increasingly express scepticism toward political leaders, questioning whether governance structures genuinely prioritize collective welfare or simply protect the interests of a privileged few. This situation reflects a fundamental philosophical tension between the ideals of justice—understood as fairness, accountability, and impartiality—and the realities of political practice in postcolonial states. The modern state, much like the ideal society envisioned by Plato in *The Republic*, aspires to balance power, morality, and civic responsibility. However, in practice, the erosion of ethical leadership and weak institutional checks often distort this equilibrium.

The pursuit of justice in East Africa thus raises critical theoretical and practical questions: How can political systems foster leaders committed to the public good? What mechanisms can ensure that power serves justice rather than privilege? The ongoing struggle highlights the gap between political ideals and lived governance realities, inviting reflection on how societies can reimagine their political culture to embody fairness, integrity, and collective well-being—values at the core of just and stable governance.

Questions

1) Explain how the concept of justice in governance reflects the ideals proposed by Plato in *The Republic*. [10 Marks]

2) Discuss the main obstacles to achieving justice and transparency in modern East African governance. [10 Marks]

3)Analyse the role of citizen participation in promoting equitable governance.

[10 Marks]

4)Suggest practical strategies that can align political leadership with the principles of justice and the common good. [10 Marks]

[Total 40 Marks]

Question 2:

Justice and Governance in the Modern State

In recent years, East African countries such as Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania have embarked on significant governance reforms intended to strengthen justice, transparency, and the rule of law. These reforms—often inspired by democratic ideals and constitutional principles—seek to create systems where political power is exercised for the common good and citizens enjoy equal access to opportunities and resources. Yet, despite these efforts, the region continues to grapple with persistent governance challenges. Corruption, political favouritism, and systemic inequality remain deeply entrenched within public institutions, undermining both trust and legitimacy.

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[10 Marks]

2) Discuss the main obstacles to achieving justice and transparency in modern East African governance.

[10 Marks]

3)Analyse the role of citizen participation in promoting equitable governance.

[10 Marks]

4)Suggest practical strategies that can align political leadership with the principles of justice and the common good.

[10 Marks]

[Total 40 Marks]

Question 3:

1) a) Why is power such a crucial concept in political theory?

[5 MARKS]

b) Can a society be both just and free? Explain your answer.

[5 MARKS]

2) a) What are some of the limitations of democracy?

[5 MARKS]

b) Should a government prioritize the economic well-being of its citizens over individual liberty? [5 MARKS]

[Total Marks 20]

Question 4:

1. Discuss how language functions as a form of power in political communication using examples from African politics. [10 marks]
2. Critically evaluate the contribution of discourse theory to contemporary political analysis. [10 marks]

Question 5:

1)Evaluate whether Plato's principle of reason governing desire offers practical lessons for addressing economic inequality and moral challenges in East African countries. [5 Marks]

2) Drawing from Plato's Republic, explain the principle of justice as harmony between the parts of the state. [5 Marks]

3) Critically assess whether contemporary governance in East African countries reflects this Platonic conception of justice. [10 Marks]

[Total Mark 20]

SECTION B

Answer any three (3) questions from the twelve (12) provided. Each question carries 20 marks. Support your answers with relevant examples, theoretical frameworks, and critical analysis drawn from the case studies and wider political theory. Clear, well-structured arguments and evidence-based reasoning will be rewarded.

Question 1:

1) Using Plato's theory, evaluate current efforts in East African societies to achieve good governance, accountability, and civic responsibility. [10 Marks].

2) Plato's understanding of justice, analyse how the concept of justice in the individual can guide personal ambition in contemporary East African societies.[10 Marks].

[Total 20 Marks]

Question 2:

Drawing from Plato's Republic, critically examine whether contemporary governance in East Africa reflects the principle of justice as harmony between the parts of the state. In your discussion, assess how Plato's idea that "justice exists when each part performs its proper role for the good of the whole" can help evaluate current efforts to achieve good governance, social order, and accountability in East African societies [20 Marks]

[Total 20 Marks]

Question 3:

Drawing from Plato's Republic, critically examine whether contemporary governance in East Africa reflects the principle of justice as harmony between the parts of the state. In your discussion, assess how Plato's idea that "justice exists when each part performs its proper role for the good of the whole" can help evaluate current efforts to achieve good governance, social order, and accountability in East African societies. [20 Marks]

[Total 20 Marks]

Question 4:

1) Using Plato's understanding of justice in the individual and the state, discuss how East African societies today might achieve a just balance between individual ambition, social

responsibility, and economic fairness.[10 Marks]

2) Does Plato's vision of a just society — where reason governs desire and each part contributes to the common good — offer any lessons for addressing inequality and moral decay in the region? [10 Marks] **[Total Mark 20]**

Question 5:

1)Evaluate whether Plato's principle of reason governing desire offers practical lessons for addressing economic inequality and moral challenges in East African countries. [5 Marks]

2) Drawing from Plato's Republic, explain the principle of justice as harmony between the parts of the state. [5 Marks]

3) Critically assess whether contemporary governance in East African countries reflects this Platonic conception of justice. [10 Marks]

[Total Mark 20]

Question 6:

1) Does Plato's vision of a just society — where reason governs desire and each part contributes to the common good — offer any lessons for addressing inequality and moral decay in the region? [10 Marks]

2) Using Plato's understanding of justice in the individual and the state, discuss how East African societies today might achieve a just balance between individual ambition, social responsibility, and economic fairness. [10 Marks] **[Total Mark 20]**

Question 7:

a) Why is power such a crucial concept in political theory?
[5 MARKS]

b) Can a society be both just and free? Explain your answer.
[5 MARKS]

a) What are some of the limitations of democracy?
[5 MARKS]

b) Should a government prioritize the economic well-being of its citizens over individual liberty? [5MARKS]

[Total Marks 20]

Question 8:

1) Discuss how economic inequality in East African cities impacts youth employment and social stability. [10 Marks]

3) Analyse the tension between individual responsibility and systemic barriers in addressing inequality. [10 Marks]

[Total Mark 20]

Question 9:

What are the different powers of government, and what are the functions of each? Why is the legislative power supreme?

[5 MARKS]

The distinction between law and justice: Are the Laws just? If they are unjust, why should one obey them, if at all?

[5 MARKS]

How does Aristotle define the nature of a thing? What does he mean when he says that "man is by nature a political animal"? What distinguishes man from other animals?

[10 MARKS]

[Total Mark 20]

Question 10:

a) Can the concepts developed in political theory be applied to global challenges? Explain your answer

[4 MARKS]

b) Why is power such a crucial concept in political theory?

[4 MARKS]

c) Can a society be both just and free? Explain your answer.

[4MARKS]

d) What are some of the limitations of democracy?

[4 MARKS]

e) Should a government prioritize the economic well-being of its citizens over individual liberty?

[4 MARKS]

[Total 20 MARKS]

Question 11:

1. Discuss how language functions as a form of power in political communication using examples from African politics. [10 marks]
2. Critically evaluate the contribution of discourse theory to contemporary political analysis. [10 marks]
3.
4.

[Total 20 MARKS]

Question 12:

1) Assessing whether Plato’s principle of reason governing desire offers practical lessons for addressing economic inequality and moral challenges in East African countries. [5 Marks]

2) Borrowing from Plato’s Republic, explain the principle of justice as harmony between the parts of the state. [5 Marks]

3) Critically assess whether contemporary governance in East African countries reflects this Platonic conception of justice. [10 Marks]

[Total Mark 20]