

PSIR ANSWER-WRITING MENTORSHIP

THE WHITE PAPER

DAY ZERO

DIAGNOSTIC TEST 01 · 10 QUESTIONS · 100 MINUTES · PSIR OPTIONAL

"You cannot fail a benchmark. You can only find out where the start line is."

BEFORE WE TEACH YOU A THING...

100 minutes. 10 questions. Mixed 10 / 15 / 20-markers across both papers. One honest photograph of where you stand today — so we know exactly where to begin.



SCAN ME →

See the full PSIR Answer-Writing Mentorship brochure.

THIS COPY BELONGS TO —

NAME

ROLL No.

DATE

MODE

Online

/

Centre

TIME IN

OUT

THE WHITE PAPER *Diagnostic Test 01*

10 Questions · 100 Minutes · Maximum Marks: 140

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- All ten questions are compulsory. Attempt them in the order you find easiest — but attempt all.
- Word limits are indicated against each question. 10 marks ≈ 150 words · 15 marks ≈ 250 words · 20 marks ≈ 350 words.
- Marks are shown in brackets. Answers must be written in English.
- Content of the answer, not merely its length, is the criterion. Keep to the word limit — the clock is part of the exam.
- This is a diagnostic. You are not being graded to pass or fail — you are being mapped. Answer honestly and closed-book, so your White Paper reflects where you actually stand.

SECTION A — PAPER I DOMAINS

Political Theory, Political Thought & Indian Government and Politics

- Q1. The foundational base of western democracy has been shaped by Locke's ideas of constitutionalism, freedom and property. Elucidate. ♦ (20)
- Q2. Explain how Rawls used the liberal and egalitarian perspective to develop his concept of distributive justice. ♦ (15)
- Q3. Mention the key differences between liberal feminism and radical feminism. (10)
- Q4. Examine the relevance of Gandhi's concept of Swaraj in contemporary India. (15)
- Q5. Examine the role of the 'basic structure' doctrine in preserving constitutionalism in India. (15)
- Q6. Comment: Cooperative federalism in India. (10)

SECTION B — PAPER II DOMAINS

Comparative Politics, International Relations & India and the World

- Q7. Examine the relevance of the realist theory in explaining contemporary international politics. (15)
- Q8. Comment: Balance of power in the contemporary international order. (10)
- Q9. Critically examine India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy in the light of recent developments in South Asia. (20)
- Q10. Comment: India's pursuit of strategic autonomy in a multipolar world order. (10)

Q1. The foundational base of western democracy has been shaped by Locke's ideas of constitutionalism, freedom and property. Elucidate.

Q1 · 20 MARKS · ≈250 WORDS



Q1 · CONTINUED



Q2. Explain how Rawls used the liberal and egalitarian perspective to develop his concept of distributive justice.

Q2 · 15 MARKS · ~250 WORDS



Q2 · CONTINUED



Q3. Mention the key differences between liberal feminism and radical feminism.

Q3 · 10 MARKS · ~150 WORDS



Q3 · CONTINUED



Q4. Examine the relevance of Gandhi's concept of Swaraj in contemporary India.

Q4 · 15 MARKS · ~250 WORDS



Q4 · CONTINUED



Q5. Examine the role of the 'basic structure' doctrine in preserving constitutionalism in India.

Q5 · 15 MARKS · ~250 WORDS



Q5 · CONTINUED



Q6. Comment: Cooperative federalism in India.

Q6 · 10 MARKS · ~150 WORDS



Q6 · CONTINUED



Q7. Examine the relevance of the realist theory in explaining contemporary international politics.

Q7 · 15 MARKS · ≈250 WORDS



Q7 · CONTINUED



Q8. Comment: Balance of power in the contemporary international order.

Q8 · 10 MARKS · ≈150 WORDS



Q8 · CONTINUED



Q9. Critically examine India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy in the light of recent developments in South Asia.

Q9 · 20 MARKS · ~250 WORDS



Q9 · CONTINUED



Q10. Comment: India's pursuit of strategic autonomy in a multipolar world order.

Q10 · 10 MARKS · ≈150 WORDS



Q10 · CONTINUED



THE SYLLABUS MAP • 40 Chapters

2 Papers • 4 Parts • 40 Chapters • The Complete PSIR Syllabus

PAPER I • PART A

Western & Indian thought, ideologies, theories of the state

Political Theory & Political Thought

Ch 1 Western Political Thought ♦

Plato • Aristotle • Machiavelli • Hobbes • Locke • Hegel • Marx • J.S. Mill • Gramsci • Hannah Arendt

Ch 2 Ideologies

Ideology & debates • Liberalism • Socialism • Marxism • Fascism • Feminism

Ch 3 Political Theories & Theories of the State

Political theory • Liberal • Neo-liberal • Marxist • Pluralist • Post-colonial • Feminist • Misc. theories & issues

Ch 4 Foundations of Democratic Governance

Justice • Liberty • Equality • Rights

Ch 5 Democracy

Ch 6 Power

Ch 7 Indian Political Thought ♦

Manu, Kautilya, Dharmashastra, Arthashastra & Buddhist tradition • Sri Aurobindo • M.N. Roy • M.K. Gandhi • B.R. Ambedkar • Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

PAPER I • PART B

Nationalism, constitution, institutions, federalism

Indian Government & Politics

Ch 8 Indian Nationalism

Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha (NCM & CDM) • Militant & revolutionary movements • Peasant & workers' movements • Perspectives on the national movement (Liberal, Socialist, Marxist, Radical Humanist, Dalit)

Ch 9 Salient Features of the Indian Constitution

The Constitution • Preamble • Fundamental Rights & Duties • Directive Principles

Ch 10 Principal Organs of Government

Union government • Bureaucracy (Weber) • Legislature (Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, committees) • State government • Courts, judicial activism & PIL

Ch 11 Grassroots Democracy

Panchayati Raj & municipal government • 73rd & 74th Amendments • Grassroot movements

Ch 12 Statutory Institutions / Commissions & Federalism

Ch 13 Planning & Economic Development

Ch 14 Party System & Social Movements

PAPER II • PART A

Comparative method, IR theory, world order, global concerns

Comparative Politics & International Relations

Ch 15 Comparative Politics: Nature & Approaches

Political economy • Political sociology • Limits of the comparative method • Other approaches

Ch 16 The Evolving State

Sovereignty & interdependence • State forms & functions in diverse economies

Ch 17 Politics of Representation & Participation

Political parties • Pressure groups • Social movements

Ch 18 Globalisation: Developed & Developing Responses

Ch 19 Approaches to Study IR

Realism • Liberalism • Marxism

Ch 20 Game Theory & Decision-Making Theory

Ch 21 Functionalist & Systems Theory

Ch 22 Global Political Dynamics

Ch 23 Key Concepts in IR ♦

National interest • Security & power • Balance of power & deterrence • Transnational actors & collective security • World capitalist economy & globalisation • Diplomacy

Ch 24 Changing International Political Order

Rise of superpowers • Strategic & ideological bipolarity • Arms race, Cold War & nuclear threat

Ch 25 Global Crises

Suez • Cuban Missile • Oil crises (1973/1991/2022) • Gulf War • Afghanistan

Ch 26 Non-Aligned Movement

Ch 27 Post-Cold War World Order

The post-Soviet world • Major issues of world politics

Ch 28 Transformations in the Global Economic Order

Bretton Woods & WTO • Socialist economies & CMEA • Third World & NIEO • Globalisation of the world economy

Ch 29 Evaluating the United Nations

Vision vs reality • Specialised agencies • The imperative for reform

Ch 30 Regionalisation of World Politics

EU • ASEAN • APEC • SAARC • NAFTA

Ch 31 Contemporary Global Concerns

Democracy • Human rights • Environment • Gender justice • Terrorism

Ch 32 Security Challenges & Ideological Shifts in Foreign Policy

PAPER II • PART B

India's foreign policy, bilaterals, the UN, the nuclear question

India & the World

Ch 33 India's Foreign Policy: Evolution & Dynamics

Historical foundations • Regional relations & strategic challenges • Institutional influences • Economic & security dimensions

Ch 34 India's Diplomatic Relations ♦

FP & NAM • SAARC & regional cooperation • Pakistan • Bangladesh • Nepal • Sri Lanka • Look East • Cross-border issues • Impediments to cooperation

Ch 35 India & the Global South

Africa • Latin America • India's role in the Global South

Ch 36 India's Relations with Global Powers ♦

USA • EU • Japan • China • Russia

Ch 37 India's Role in the UN System

UNSC seat • Peacekeeping • Reform advocacy • Broader engagement

Ch 38 India & the Nuclear Question

Nuclear weapons & IR • Non-proliferation & arms control • CTBT & disarmament • India's nuclear policy • Defence & strategy

Ch 39 Recent Developments in Indian Foreign Policy

Israel • West Asia • Global diplomacy & the new world order • Strategic partnerships & multilateralism

Ch 40 Miscellaneous Topics in Global Politics

Bilateral relations (independent of India) • Global policies & doctrines • Strategic & economic systems • Geopolitical dynamics



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WHY WE MAKE YOU WRITE BEFORE WE TEACH YOU ANYTHING.

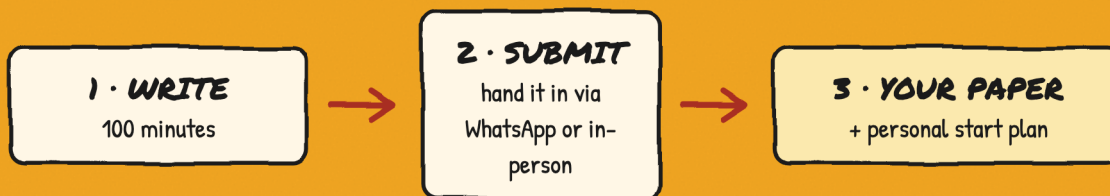
WHAT THESE 100 MINUTES WILL TELL YOU:

- ✓ **Your real starting score** — the most useful number you'll get all year.
- ✓ **Your time-management truth** — where the 100 minutes actually goes.
- ✓ **Your directive-word blind spots** — do you examine, or just describe?
- ✓ **The content-vs-presentation gap** — knowing it isn't the same as scoring it.
- ✓ **Your personal "White Paper" report** — evaluated and returned in 2 working days, setting the exact point where your mentorship begins.

"A gap you can see is a gap already half-closed. We benchmark you on Day Zero not to grade you — but to make your progress impossible to hide from yourself. You can't improve a number you never wrote down."

Attempt it closed-book and alone. A diagnostic you game is the one exam whose only victim is you.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



ABOUT YOUR MENTOR

Swetank Pandey

PSIR Optional educator and author of Arihant's Q-Beat Series (Chapterwise Solved 2025-2016, PSIR Paper 1 & 2). Known for turning dense theory into clean, exam-ready frameworks.

"I read every single Answer sheet myself."

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WP · DAY ZERO · 01