

**Q. Do you think that political science is a science? If yes give reasons to prove your answer.**

**Marks: 5/10/14**

**Or/**

**Is political science a science or an art? Give reasons to prove your answer.**

**Answer:** Whether political science is a science or an art needs a deep and detailed study. Some political thinkers consider it as science. Whereas some other thinkers consider it as an art. Here, we shall examine the matter and try to give reasons in favour of political science as a science.

Political science is widely considered a science. It employs systematic methods of inquiry and analysis to study political phenomena, including government systems, political behaviour, public policy, and more. Scholars like Aristotle, Nicollo Machiavelli, Max Weber and David Easton considered political science a science.

Here are several reasons supporting this assertion, elaborated in detail:

- 1. Systematic Study and Methodology:** Political science follows a systematic approach to study political systems, behaviour, and institutions. It employs various methodologies such as case studies, experiments, surveys, and statistical analysis. These methods allow for the collection and analysis of data, leading to the development of theories and explanations of political phenomena.
- 2. Empirical Evidence and Data Analysis:** Like other sciences, political science relies on empirical evidence. Researchers collect data through observations, surveys, experiments, and other means. This data is then analysed to identify patterns, correlations, and causal relationships, forming the basis for theories and generalizations.
- 3. Development of Theories and Models:** Political science seeks to develop theories and models to explain and predict political behaviour and events. These theories often emerge from the analysis of empirical data and are refined through further testing and research. Theories in political science, like the democratic peace theory or rational choice theory, provide frameworks for understanding political phenomena.
- 4. Predictive and Explanatory Power:** Political science aims to explain why political events occur and predicts future political behaviour or outcomes based on empirical data and established theories. Through this predictive and explanatory power, it enables policymakers, analysts, and citizens to anticipate and understand political developments.
- 5. Peer Review and Academic Rigor:** Political science research undergoes rigorous peer review processes before publication in academic journals. Experts in the field evaluate the research for its methodology, validity, and contribution to the existing body of knowledge. This process helps ensure the credibility and reliability of research in the field.

6. **Academic Disciplines and Departments:** Academic institutions categorize political science within the framework of the social sciences, alongside other recognized sciences such as sociology, economics, and psychology. This categorization underscores the academic and scientific nature of political science.
7. **Progressive Development of Knowledge:** Political science has evolved over centuries, with notable advancements in understanding political systems, behaviour, ideologies, and international relations. The continual refinement and advancement of knowledge in political science demonstrate its status as a science.
8. **Application and Practical Utility:** Political science isn't confined to theoretical abstraction; it has practical applications. Insights from political science inform public policies, international relations, governance structures, electoral systems, and more, affecting real-world outcomes and society.
9. **Interdisciplinary Nature:** Political science often intersects with other scientific disciplines such as economics, sociology, anthropology, and history. This interdisciplinary approach enhances the understanding of complex political phenomena and enriches the scientific study of politics.
10. **Objective Analysis and Neutrality:** Political scientists strive for objectivity in their analysis, aiming to provide neutral assessments of political events and behaviour. They rely on evidence and avoid biases, contributing to the scientific nature of their work.

In conclusion we can say that political science embodies the hallmarks of a science through its systematic study, empirical evidence, development of theories, predictive power, academic rigor, practical application, interdisciplinary nature, and commitment to objectivity. Its pursuit is grounded in the scientific method, providing valuable insights into the complexities of the political world.

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