FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2ND SEMESTER 2019

Assignment 1

Introduction to Political Science

ITP521S
Course Name: Introduction to Political Science
Course Code: ITP521S
Department: Social sciences
Course Duration: One Semester
NQF Level and Credit: Level 7; 15 Credits

Students are strongly advised to visit the eLearning MOODLE site in order to have access to course materials, course outlines and PowerPoint presentations.

Moodle Enrollment Key: itp521s

Marker-tutor Details

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Ms N.N. Puleinge would like to use this opportunity to thank all Introduction to Political Science students for submitting Assignment 1. The overall performance was average. The lowest score in ITP521S Assignment 1 was 2% and 72% is the highest score.

The following are common challenges identified during marking:

- Most of the listed materials/ sources listed under the reference page do not feature anywhere in the body of assignment.
- Some students did not use neither the American Psychological Association (APA) nor Havard referencing style.
• Some assignments do not contain a table of contents, introduction, Conclusion or Reference page.
• Many students did not use a variety of reading materials; excessive use of web-based sources must be stopped!
• Practical and relevant examples were not provided by many students; therefore, general information about the origin and functions of modern states was presented.

Assignment 1

THE ORIGIN OF MODERN STATES:

The modern state within the context of discussing the pre-modern political and social institutions today associated with feudalism. The state itself is relatively new to the scene of human affairs, having arisen at some point perhaps 6,000 years ago.

Humankind as we know it today has existed for approximately 200,000 years, though, it should be noted, evidence more recently discovered suggests that human beings could be much older, even as old as 300,000 years. If we have contended with the state for a mere three one-hundredths of humanity’s life to date, then we have had the modern. States where only established in the 16\textsuperscript{th} century. According to Jackson and Jackson (2003, p.47), states as we find them today have developed from European philosophies. They first started in Western Europe in the 16\textsuperscript{th} and 17\textsuperscript{th} centuries. Before that time, kings and queens and churches had the responsibility to govern the people.

People started to resist the authority of the Roman Catholic Church during the 16\textsuperscript{th} century. Furthermore, they began to identify themselves in terms of both religion and language. This is the point where people started to identify themselves as English, French, German or Italian based of the language they spoke.
NOTE: Students must refer to any modern state of their choice.

FUNCTIONS OF MODERN STATE:

The activities undertaken by the modern state are complex and varied. This is due to strong demand by the people for active state intervention in the social and economic affairs of the country. The statesmen of today do not place any limitation on the powers of the government to interfere in the social and economic spheres. The only governing principle is whether state action promotes general welfare. In every country of the world, the laissez-fair policy has been discarded and there is a strong swing towards adoption of Socialism, Frase is right when he says that "Socialism or Collectivism is upon us, horse, foot and gun"

(i) Provision of defense and security- The primary function of the state is to protect the country from external invasion and to maintain peace and security within the country. For smooth and progressive working of the economic machinery, it is very essential that people should live in perfect peace. They should not be in fear of external aggression. Every member of the society should have full protection from the injustice or oppression of every other member of it. The state expenditure providing security and justice is productive because it helps indirectly in carrying out the activities which are labeled as productive.

(ii) Economic Function: The modern state is actively intervening in economic spheres. Though it recognizes the individual rights in private property, it allows freedom of enterprise and contract. When it finds that its laws are being violated, it immediately intervenes for regulating the economic affairs. If the state finds that private capital is not forthcoming in certain industries, it assists private enterprise in establishing and running the industries. Sometimes, the government itself takes initiative and sets up industries. The modern economists justify state interference in the following cases:
(a) Where Business is of Monopolistic Nature: There are certain businesses like railways, post and telegraph, canal, electricity, water supply, etc., which are extremely useful for the people. If they are given into private hands, the consumers can be easily exploited. The government, in the interest of the people, takes control of these businesses and runs them almost on a non-profit basis.

(b) Where Private Capital is not attracted: If in a certain industry or industries, the private capital is shy because of the inadequate return or there is no return at all, the state must step in and provide the requisite capital. The cases where private capital is not attracted are public health, libraries, museums, afforestation, road construction schemes, parks, etc., etc.

(c) Protection of economically weak persons: In a competitive society, the factory workers are often exploited by their employees. The modern state therefore, must take suitable steps for protecting the legitimate rights of a class having very weak bargaining powers.

(d) Exploitation by Forming Monopolistic combination: Sometimes the businessmen form cartel and trust and exploit the consumers by charging very high prices. The state in such cases must intervene and prohibit the formation of such combination.

(e) Protection of Consumers: The state must protect its citizens against adulteration of food, sale of intoxicants, etc.

(f) Supply of Currency: The state must take full control of the supply of currency in the country. This will help the government in securing stability of prices, suitable steps to reduce inequality of the income in the country. For this purpose, it adopts progressive system of ‘taxation, levies
death duties on inherited property and provides social services among the poor section of the community.

(g) State and Economic Planning: The state in order be speed up the economic development in a balanced manner, formulates programmes and policies to harness the human efforts and physical resources to the maximum possible extent. It fixes targets and priorities and then proceeds to complete them within the specified period.

(iii) Direct Social Activities: Every modern state takes keen interest in providing social services to its citizens. The government gives funds to the needy, sick and unemployed persons, it provides them free education, free medical and old age pensions. It takes care of public health and provides them housing facilities. It opens parks, libraries, for the benefit of the people.

In short, the state's intervention in economic affairs takes the form of:

(a) Provision of facilities to the businessmen for carrying on their businesses.
(b) Direct encouragement of the business by providing them protection from foreign competition, granting of bounties, subsidies, relief and taxation, etc., etc.
(c) Regulating economic enterprise on proper footing.
(d) Taking actual control and ownership of certain important industries-In the last decade of the 20th century and in the 21st century, the role of the state is being considerably reduced. Instead of performing the role of producer, controller and regulator, it will act as protector, promoter and provider.

NOTE: Relevant and practical examples should be provided.