

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: Bachelor of Arts (F.Y.B.A)

Subject: Political Science

Semester: I

Paper Code: DSC1A

Paper Title: Introduction to Political Theory

Title of the Unit: Power, Authority & Legitimacy

Module Name: Characteristics of Power

Module Number: 15

Name of the Presenter: Mr. Akbar Gaded

Notes

Characteristics

- Power is the Capacity to influence others

An Individual or a Nation wields power to the extent of changing behavior of others according to their wish.

- Power is situational

It depends on situation, circumstances and position. For example, a teacher may exercise power on his student while he is in college but not after he has left the college.

- Power is always relational

It is not the property of one single individual. At least two actors are required, one who exercises the power and other upon whom the power is exercised.

- Power is not absolute but relative

If an individual has power, it is essential that there should be someone who is prepared to accept its use. Power depends upon time, power relations changes with changing circumstances.

- Power must be backed by Sanction

State has power to punish if someone breaks the law and this power is legit.

➤ Power depends on its use

The President of India has powers but he does not use them as he is merely a constitutional head. The president of the United States has a vast powers and he actually uses them.