

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

UPSC 2016 · 10 marks

Comment on Post-Behavioural approach. (150 words)

FLOW SNAPSHOT

how the answer moves

Intro routes

R1: late 1960s → **Easton's** turn to relevance and values — a reform, not a reaction. **R2:** pure science exhausted → “ivory towers” → the demand for relevance.

Body flow

Behavioural detachment amid 1960s crises → keeps empirical gains, adds relevance + values + action → pure → applied, method → purpose → the 1969 Credo → twin slogans: relevance + action.

Counter-view

Waldo: a “raving, rumbling structure without any ultimate destiny”.

Conclusion routes

R1: reconnected the discipline with purpose without losing rigour. **R2:** a reform and synthesis, not a counter-revolution.

Post-behaviouralism arose in the late 1960s, when David Easton called for a turn back toward relevance and values. It was not a rejection of behaviouralism but a correction - a reform, not a reaction.

By then behaviouralism's stress on pure science, method and value-neutrality had left scholars in their "ivory towers," perfecting technique while war, inequality and civil rights went unaddressed.

Post-behaviouralism kept the empirical gains but added relevance, values, action and public responsibility, moving it from pure to applied and from method to purpose. Easton set this out in his 1969 presidential address, the Credo of Relevance, calling it "a reform not a counter reformation." Its twin slogans were relevance and action: substance before technique, research touching the brute realities of politics, values treated as integral.

Critics like Dwight Waldo dismissed it as a "raving, rumbling structure without any ultimate destiny." Its lasting worth was to reconnect political science with purpose and values without abandoning empirical rigour.