

Characteristics of behaviouralism as given by David Easton

* David Easton, one of the most important exponents and founders of the behaviouralist political school of thought, has summed up behaviouralism around eight characteristic features. These are

* (i) Regularities - The behaviourists hold the opinion that human behaviour despite its differences, shows some remarkable uniformities in political behaviour, which can be generalised and formulated in a systematic theory.

(ii) Verification - The behaviourists do not accept any thing as granted like the traditionalists.

* Any thing which can not be verified or tested can be termed only as dogmatic and not scientific.

(iii) Techniques → The behaviourists emphasise the adoption of correct techniques for acquiring the scientific data.

(iv) Quantification - The behaviourists contend that a researcher cannot properly explain political phenomena nor can he safely predict a political result for the future without measurement and quantification.

(v) Values - While the behaviourists believe in value-free study

the traditionalists believe in value-laden study

(vi) Systematization - Behaviouralism believes that research in political science must be systematic by which they mean that it must be "theory-oriented and theory-directed."

(vii) pure science - Behaviouralists by and large insist on what they call "pure science approach."

(viii) Integration - Finally, the behaviouralists believe that social and political phenomena can not be studied in isolation.

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Rama Kant Pandey

A. P. (Guest)

S. R. A. P. College

Bara Chalkiya

B. R. A. B. U (Muz.)