

Foundations of Political Thought

Political Philosophy · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Who is credited with the first recorded systematic use of the term 'political science' in the title of a major work?

- A) Aristotle
- B) Jean Bodin
- C) Thomas Hobbes
- D) Niccolò Machiavelli

2. Which ancient legal document is the first known attempt to explicitly limit the powers of a monarch by law?

- A) Magna Carta
- B) Code of Hammurabi
- C) The Twelve Tables
- D) Edict of Nantes

3. In which work was the 'state of nature' first rigorously formulated as a philosophical device to justify the necessity of sovereign authority?

- A) Leviathan
- B) Two Treatises of Government
- C) The Social Contract
- D) De Cive

4. Which thinker introduced the concept of the 'general will' (volonté générale) as a foundational element of political legitimacy?

- A) Montesquieu
- B) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- C) John Locke
- D) Immanuel Kant

5. The concept of the 'separation of powers' was first systematically articulated in its modern tripartite form by which philosopher?

- A) Baron de Montesquieu
- B) James Madison
- C) John Locke
- D) Cicero

6. Which work is recognized as the first systematic treatise on political economy, formally separating 'political' administration from 'economic' production?

- A) The Wealth of Nations
- B) The Prince
- C) Politics
- D) Utopia

7. The 'veil of ignorance' as a discovery in methodology for determining principles of justice was introduced by whom?

- A) John Rawls
- B) Robert Nozick
- C) Jeremy Bentham
- D) Karl Marx

8. Which philosopher is credited with the first modern philosophical defense of 'civil disobedience' in his essay of the same name?

- A) Henry David Thoreau
- B) Mahatma Gandhi
- C) Leo Tolstoy
- D) John Stuart Mill

9. Who first coined the term 'utopia' to describe an ideal socio-political system in his 1516 publication?

- A) Thomas More
- B) Francis Bacon
- C) Plato
- D) Tommaso Campanella

10. Which thinker first proposed the 'panopticon' as an architectural design for social and political surveillance?

- A) Jeremy Bentham
- B) Michel Foucault
- C) Herbert Spencer
- D) Auguste Comte

11. The first written constitution of a modern republic, which integrated the principle of popular sovereignty, was established in what year?

- A) 1776
- B) 1787
- C) 1791
- D) 1789

12. Who is the first political philosopher to formally define the 'social contract' as a voluntary agreement among individuals to form a society?

- A) Thomas Hobbes
- B) Hugo Grotius
- C) John Locke
- D) Jean-Jacques Rousseau

13. Which scholar is credited with inventing the term 'totalitarianism' to describe the regimes of the 20th century?

- A) Giovanni Amendola
- B) Hannah Arendt
- C) Friedrich Hayek
- D) George Orwell

14. The distinction between 'positive liberty' and 'negative liberty' was first formally categorized in a lecture by which philosopher?

- A) Isaiah Berlin
- B) T.H. Green
- C) John Stuart Mill
- D) Benjamin Constant

15. Which ancient thinker is attributed with the first 'classification of constitutions' based on the number of people who rule?

- A) Herodotus
- B) Plato
- C) Aristotle
- D) Socrates