

Middle School Political Science Challenge

Political Science · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which philosopher's concept of the 'social contract' posits that individuals voluntarily give up certain freedoms to a governing body in exchange for protection and order?

- A) Niccolò Machiavelli
- B) Thomas Hobbes**
- C) John Locke
- D) Jean-Jacques Rousseau

2. In a parliamentary system of government, the executive branch is typically drawn from and accountable to which branch?

- A) The Judiciary
- B) The Legislative Branch**
- C) The Bureaucracy
- D) The Electorate

3. The principle of 'separation of powers' as established by Montesquieu divides governmental authority among which three distinct branches?

- A) Executive, Judicial, Administrative
- B) Legislative, Executive, Bureaucratic
- C) Judicial, Legislative, Administrative
- D) Legislative, Executive, Judicial**

4. Which term describes a system of government where supreme power is held by the people and exercised directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodic free elections?

- A) Autocracy
- B) Oligarchy
- C) Democracy**
- D) Monarchy

5. What is the primary function of a constitution in a political system?

- A) To declare war
- B) To outline the structure and powers of government and protect citizens' rights**
- C) To collect taxes
- D) To appoint ambassadors

6. A political system where a single person or a small group possesses unlimited power and seeks to suppress any opposition is best described as:

- A) Federalism
- B) Authoritarianism**
- C) Pluralism
- D) Confederalism

7. Which of the following is a core principle of the rule of law?

- A) Laws are applied unequally based on social status
- B) No one is above the law, including government officials**
- C) Laws can be changed arbitrarily by the ruler
- D) Justice is determined by popular opinion

8. The concept of 'federalism' in government refers to a system where power is divided between:

- A) The monarch and the parliament
- B) The executive and legislative branches
- C) The national government and regional governments**
- D) The majority party and the opposition parties

9. What is the term for the formal process by which a bill becomes a law in most democratic legislative systems?

- A) Veto
- B) Ratification
- C) Legislative Process**
- D) Executive Order

10. The ideology that emphasizes individual liberty, limited government intervention in the economy, and free markets is known as:

- A) Socialism
- B) Communism
- C) Conservatism
- D) Liberalism (Classical)**