

Advanced Political Science Concepts

Political Science · Answer Key · 16 Questions

1. Which theory of international relations posits that states are inherently driven by a desire for power and security in an anarchic international system, leading to a balance of power as the primary mechanism for stability?

- A) Liberalism
- B) Constructivism
- C) Realism**
- D) Marxism

2. According to Downs' economic theory of voter behavior, what is the primary factor influencing a voter's choice of candidate?

- A) Party identification
- B) Ideological alignment with candidate platforms
- C) The candidate perceived to be closest to the voter's own policy positions**
- D) The candidate's personal charisma and media presence

3. The 'Median Voter Theorem' suggests that in a two-party system with voters distributed along a single ideological dimension, both parties will tend to converge on the policy position of which group?

- A) The most ideologically extreme voters
- B) The wealthiest voters
- C) The median voter**
- D) The oldest voters

4. What is the core tenet of Duverger's Law regarding electoral systems and party systems?

- A) Proportional representation electoral systems lead to multi-party systems.
- B) Plurality (first-past-the-post) electoral systems tend to produce two-party systems.**
- C) Ranked-choice voting encourages coalition governments.
- D) District magnitude has no significant impact on party system formation.

5. Which concept, central to modernization theory, describes the process by which societies transition from traditional to modern forms of organization and values, often associated with economic development and democratization?

- A) Dependency Theory
- B) World-Systems Theory
- C) Modernization**
- D) Neocolonialism

6. In comparative politics, the 'resource curse' hypothesis suggests that countries with abundant natural resources often experience which of the following?

- A) Higher rates of economic growth and diversification
- B) Lower levels of corruption and conflict
- C) Slower economic growth, greater corruption, and more conflict**
- D) More stable democratic institutions

7. The theory of 'democratic backsliding' refers to the gradual erosion of democratic norms, practices, and institutions within a country, often characterized by which of the following?

- A) Increased protection of civil liberties and free press
- B) Strengthening of checks and balances on executive power
- C) Weakening of electoral integrity, restrictions on opposition, and politicization of state institutions**
- D) Expansion of opportunities for civil society engagement

8. Which influential political scientist is most closely associated with the concept of 'structural adjustment programs' imposed by international financial institutions on developing countries in the late 20th century?

- A) Robert Dahl
- B) Samuel Huntington
- C) Milton Friedman
- D) Joseph Stiglitz**

9. The 'principal-agent problem' in political science describes a situation where one party (the principal) delegates authority to another party (the agent), and there is a risk of the agent acting in their own self-interest rather than the principal's. This is a fundamental concept in the study of:

- A) International Law
- B) Bureaucratic Politics and Governance**
- C) Public International Law
- D) Indigenous Political Systems

10. What is the primary theoretical contribution of the 'dependency theory' to understanding global economic inequalities?

- A) It argues that developing nations are intrinsically less capable of economic development.
- B) It posits that the underdevelopment of periphery nations is a direct consequence of their integration into a global capitalist system dominated by core nations.**
- C) It emphasizes the role of internal cultural factors as the sole determinant of economic success.
- D) It advocates for a purely laissez-faire approach to international trade.

11. The 'illusion of control' is a cognitive bias that has been applied to political decision-making. It describes the tendency for individuals to overestimate their ability to influence outcomes, particularly in situations characterized by:

- A) High predictability and clear feedback
- B) Low predictability and ambiguous feedback**
- C) Simple cause-and-effect relationships
- D) Complete information availability

12. What does the concept of 'bounded rationality,' as proposed by Herbert Simon, suggest about the decision-making processes of political actors?

- A) Political actors are perfectly rational and always make optimal decisions.
- B) Political actors have unlimited cognitive capacity and access to all information.
- C) Political actors make decisions based on incomplete information, limited cognitive abilities, and are satisfied with 'good enough' solutions.**
- D) Political actors are primarily driven by emotional impulses rather than any form of rational calculation.

13. In the study of political behavior, the 'rally 'round the flag' effect describes a phenomenon where citizens tend to increase their support for the incumbent government during periods of:

- A) Economic prosperity and domestic stability
- B) Foreign policy crises and perceived external threats**
- C) Low unemployment and inflation
- D) Periods of significant social reform

14. Which branch of political science methodology is most concerned with developing and testing theories through rigorous empirical observation and statistical analysis, often employing techniques like regression analysis and experimental design?

- A) Normative Theory
- B) Political Philosophy
- C) Political Methodology**
- D) Ideological Critique

15. The 'Washington Monument game' is a metaphorical illustration in political science used to explain which concept related to legislative behavior?

- A) The importance of seniority in legislative committees
- B) The tendency of legislators to engage in symbolic gestures rather than substantive policy-making when facing a deadlock**
- C) The effectiveness of filibusters in blocking legislation
- D) The role of lobbying in shaping public policy

16. According to the work of Francis Fukuyama, the 'end of history' hypothesis suggested that the collapse of communism signified a convergence towards which dominant form of political and economic organization?

- A) Authoritarianism with market economies
- B) Socialism with democratic elements
- C) Liberal democracy and market capitalism**
- D) Technocratic governance