

# Advanced Political Science Concepts

Political Science · Practice Test · 16 Questions

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**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