

Foundational Concepts in Political Philosophy

Political Philosophy · Practice Test · 10 Questions

1. Which philosopher is famously associated with the social contract theory, arguing that governments derive their legitimacy from the consent of the governed?

- A) Niccolò Machiavelli
- B) Thomas Hobbes
- C) John Locke
- D) Karl Marx

2. In Plato's 'Republic,' what is the ideal form of government led by those with the greatest wisdom and virtue?

- A) Democracy
- B) Oligarchy
- C) Aristocracy
- D) Philosopher Kings

3. Who is known for the concept of 'the general will,' which posits that the true will of the people should guide the state?

- A) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- B) Immanuel Kant
- C) G.W.F. Hegel
- D) Friedrich Nietzsche

4. The idea of the separation of powers, dividing governmental authority among legislative, executive, and judicial branches, is most closely associated with which Enlightenment thinker?

- A) Voltaire
- B) Baron de Montesquieu
- C) Denis Diderot
- D) John Stuart Mill

5. Which political philosophy advocates for minimal government intervention in the economy and society, emphasizing individual liberty and free markets?

- A) Socialism
- B) Communism
- C) Libertarianism
- D) Fascism

6. Niccolò Machiavelli's 'The Prince' is a seminal work known for its pragmatic advice on how rulers can acquire and maintain political power, often divorcing politics from morality. What is this approach often referred to as?

- A) Utopianism
- B) Realpolitik
- C) Idealism
- D) Anarchism

7. According to Karl Marx, what is the inherent conflict driving history, particularly in capitalist societies?

- A) Religious differences
- B) Nationalist ambitions
- C) Class struggle
- D) Tribal rivalries

8. John Stuart Mill, in 'On Liberty,' argued for the principle that individuals should be free to act as they wish, provided their actions do not harm others. What is this principle called?

- A) The Harm Principle
- B) The Greatest Happiness Principle
- C) The Veil of Ignorance
- D) The Categorical Imperative

9. Which ancient Greek philosopher is credited with developing the concept of distributive justice, arguing that fairness in society depends on distributing resources and honors according to merit?

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

10. The concept of a 'state of nature' is a hypothetical condition before the existence of organized society and government, explored by many social contract theorists. Who argued that life in the state of nature would be 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short'?

- A) John Locke
- B) Thomas Hobbes
- C) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- D) Baron de Montesquieu