

Advanced Political Science Inquiry

Political Science · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which political theorist is credited with the formulation of the 'iron law of oligarchy', which posits that all organizations eventually develop into oligarchies?

- A) Vilfredo Pareto
- B) Gaetano Mosca
- C) Robert Michels
- D) Max Weber

2. In Duverger's Law, what is the primary consequence of a plurality-rule electoral system combined with single-member districts?

- A) The formation of multi-party systems
- B) The tendency toward a two-party system
- C) A decrease in voter turnout
- D) The stabilization of proportional representation

3. What concept describes the phenomenon where the median voter in a two-candidate election will dictate the policy position of both candidates?

- A) Condorcet Paradox
- B) Downs' Median Voter Theorem
- C) Arrow's Impossibility Theorem
- D) Nash Equilibrium

4. According to Arend Lijphart, which type of democracy is characterized by executive power-sharing, a multi-party system, and proportional representation?

- A) Westminster model
- B) Consensual democracy
- C) Majoritarian democracy
- D) Unitary democracy

5. Arrow's Impossibility Theorem demonstrates that no rank-order voting system can convert ranked preferences of individuals into a community-wide ranking while meeting which criteria?

- A) Non-dictatorship and Independence of irrelevant alternatives
- B) Efficiency and Absolute stability
- C) Universalism and Weighted voting
- D) Borda count consistency

6. What is the core premise of 'Democratic Peace Theory'?

- A) Democracies have higher GDP growth rates
- B) Democracies rarely fight wars against each other
- C) Democracies prefer diplomatic isolationism
- D) Democracies are more likely to undergo civil war

7. In the context of international relations, what does 'structural realism' (neorealism), as defined by Kenneth Waltz, emphasize as the primary driver of state behavior?

- A) Human nature
- B) The domestic political regime type
- C) The anarchic structure of the international system
- D) Economic interdependence

8. Which term refers to the process by which a state's political culture is transmitted from one generation to the next?

- A) Political socialization
- B) Elite recruitment
- C) Cognitive dissonance
- D) Legislative oversight

9. The 'resource curse' or 'paradox of plenty' is a theory suggesting that countries with an abundance of natural resources often experience which of the following?

- A) High levels of democratic stability
- B) Stagnant economic growth and authoritarianism
- C) Rapid industrialization and human rights improvements
- D) Enhanced environmental regulation

10. In game theory, what does the 'Stag Hunt' specifically model regarding international relations?

- A) The necessity of zero-sum competition
- B) The benefits of cooperation versus the risk of defection
- C) The absolute power of the hegemon
- D) The inevitability of arms races

11. Which political scientist introduced the 'Clash of Civilizations' thesis, arguing that cultural and religious identities would be the primary source of conflict in the post-Cold War era?

- A) Francis Fukuyama
- B) Samuel Huntington
- C) Joseph Nye
- D) Zbigniew Brzezinski

12. What is the primary characteristic of a 'consociational' political system?

- A) Centralization of power in a single executive branch
- B) Power sharing among distinct ethnic or religious segments
- C) A winner-take-all electoral structure
- D) Dominance by a single political party

13. According to the 'dependency theory' in political economy, the global economy is structured into which two categories?

- A) Capitalist and Socialist
- B) Core and Periphery
- C) Democratic and Autocratic
- D) Developed and Developing

14. What does the 'Gini coefficient' measure in a political-economic context?

- A) Total government expenditure as a percentage of GDP
- B) The extent of income inequality within a population
- C) The rate of inflation in a developing economy
- D) The density of institutional bureaucracy

15. Which phenomenon explains why voters may choose not to vote because the personal cost of gathering information exceeds the expected benefit of their individual vote?

- A) The rational ignorance problem
- B) The paradox of participation
- C) The collective action failure
- D) The social choice dilemma