

Foundational Concepts in Political Philosophy

Political Philosophy · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which philosopher is most closely associated with the concept of the 'general will' as a basis for legitimate political authority?

- A) John Locke
- B) Thomas Hobbes
- C) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- D) Immanuel Kant

2. The theory of separation of powers, advocating for distinct legislative, executive, and judicial branches, was prominently articulated by which Enlightenment thinker?

- A) Niccolò Machiavelli
- B) Baron de Montesquieu
- C) Adam Smith
- D) David Hume

3. In the context of social contract theory, Thomas Hobbes argued that in a state of nature, life would be 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short' due to the absence of:

- A) Economic prosperity
- B) Religious freedom
- C) A sovereign power
- D) Personal property rights

4. John Stuart Mill, a proponent of utilitarianism, argued that the best action is the one that maximizes:

- A) Individual liberty
- B) Social equality
- C) Overall happiness
- D) National security

5. The concept of 'natural rights,' including life, liberty, and property, is a cornerstone of the political philosophy of:

- A) Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
- B) Karl Marx
- C) John Locke
- D) Plato

6. Aristotle, in his work 'Politics,' classified constitutions based on the number of rulers and whether they ruled for the common good or their own self-interest. He identified three 'correct' forms of government:

- A) Democracy, Aristocracy, Monarchy
- B) Oligarchy, Tyranny, Anarchy
- C) Polity, Aristocracy, Monarchy
- D) Republic, Democracy, Theocracy

7. The idea that political power derives its legitimacy from the consent of the governed is a central tenet of:

- A) Divine right of kings
- B) Autocracy
- C) Liberalism
- D) Absolute monarchy

8. Niccolò Machiavelli's 'The Prince' is notable for its pragmatic and often amoral advice on how rulers can acquire and maintain:

- A) Moral authority
- B) Popular support
- C) Political power
- D) Economic stability

9. The critique of capitalism and the advocacy for a classless society are central themes in the works of:

- A) Max Weber
- B) Émile Durkheim
- C) Karl Marx
- D) John Maynard Keynes

10. Which political ideology emphasizes individual liberty, limited government intervention in the economy, and free markets?

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

11. The concept of 'justice as fairness,' proposing a society structured by two principles: equal basic liberties and social and economic inequalities arranged to benefit the least advantaged, was developed by:

- A) Robert Nozick
- B) John Rawls
- C) Jürgen Habermas
- D) Michel Foucault

12. Feminist political philosophy, particularly in the work of Carole Pateman, critically examines the historical exclusion of women from the public sphere and argues for:

- A) Patriarchal governance
- B) The separation of public and private life
- C) The removal of gender-based inequalities in political participation
- D) Traditional gender roles

13. The idea that a state's sovereignty is absolute and indivisible within its borders is a key concept in the study of:

- A) International relations
- B) Political theory
- C) Public administration
- D) Comparative politics

14. The concept of the 'veil of ignorance,' a thought experiment used to derive principles of justice, is attributed to:

- A) G.W.F. Hegel
- B) Friedrich Nietzsche
- C) John Rawls
- D) Hannah Arendt

15. Anarchism, as a political philosophy, fundamentally advocates for:

- A) A strong, centralized state
- B) The abolition of all forms of hierarchical rule and authority
- C) A constitutional monarchy
- D) A global federal government