

Advanced Political Science Assessment

Political Science · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which political theorist coined the term 'hegemony' to describe the ideological dominance of the ruling class in his 'Prison Notebooks'?

- A) Antonio Gramsci
- B) Louis Althusser
- C) Herbert Marcuse
- D) Max Horkheimer

2. In the context of the UN Security Council, which of the following is not a permanent member with veto power?

- A) China
- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) Russia

3. The 'Great Compromise' of 1787 at the United States Constitutional Convention resulted in which legislative structure?

- A) Unicameral legislature with equal representation
- B) Bicameral legislature with mixed representation
- C) Unicameral legislature based on population
- D) Bicameral legislature based strictly on population

4. Which seminal work by Thomas Hobbes argues that absolute sovereignty is necessary to escape the 'state of nature'?

- A) Two Treatises of Government
- B) The Social Contract
- C) Leviathan
- D) The Prince

5. The Maastricht Treaty, signed in 1992, officially established which supranational organization?

- A) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- B) The European Union
- C) The World Trade Organization
- D) The Council of Europe

6. Which political system is characterized by the 'fusion of powers' between the executive and legislative branches?

- A) Presidential system
- B) Federal system
- C) Parliamentary system
- D) Confederal system

7. What is the primary function of the 'whip' in a Westminster parliamentary system?

- A) To draft legislation for the opposition
- B) To enforce party discipline and voting behavior
- C) To represent the monarch in parliament
- D) To preside over judicial appointments

8. Which international agreement established the principle of 'cuius regio, eius religio' (whose realm, his religion) in 1555?

- A) Peace of Westphalia
- B) Peace of Augsburg
- C) Treaty of Versailles
- D) Congress of Vienna

9. In political science, what does the term 'gerrymandering' specifically refer to?

- A) The manipulation of electoral boundaries to favor one party
- B) The bribery of government officials
- C) The illegal financing of political campaigns
- D) The delay of legislative proceedings

10. Which political philosopher authored 'A Theory of Justice' and introduced the concept of the 'veil of ignorance'?

- A) Robert Nozick
- B) Isaiah Berlin
- C) John Rawls
- D) Michael Sandel

11. The concept of 'soft power', defined as the ability to attract and co-opt rather than coerce, was developed by which scholar?

- A) Kenneth Waltz
- B) Joseph Nye
- C) John Mearsheimer
- D) Henry Kissinger

12. Which of the following is a classic example of a 'unitary' state where central government retains supreme authority?

- A) United States
- B) Australia
- C) France
- D) Switzerland

13. What is the core tenet of the 'Realist' school of international relations?

- A) Emphasis on international institutions
- B) The state as the primary actor in an anarchic system
- C) The belief in perpetual global peace
- D) Focus on individual human rights

14. The '1951 Refugee Convention' defines a refugee primarily based on what criteria?

- A) Economic hardship
- B) Environmental displacement
- C) Well-founded fear of persecution
- D) Voluntary migration

15. Which legislative body is the upper house of the German parliament, representing the individual states (Länder)?

- A) Bundestag
- B) Bundesrat
- C) Diet
- D) Sejm

16. What is the term for a system of government where power is divided between a central authority and constituent political units?

- A) Unitary system
- B) Federalism
- C) Oligarchy
- D) Autocracy

17. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution formally abolished slavery?

- A) 12th Amendment
- B) 13th Amendment
- C) 14th Amendment
- D) 15th Amendment

18. The 'Balfour Declaration' of 1917 was issued by the government of which nation?

- A) France
- B) United States
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Ottoman Empire

19. Who is credited with the 'Iron Law of Oligarchy', which states that all organizations eventually develop into oligarchies?

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

20. In constitutional law, what does 'stare decisis' mean?

- A) To stand by things decided
- B) To separate church and state
- C) To veto legislative acts
- D) To impeach the executive

21. Which branch of government is responsible for interpreting the laws in a separation of powers system?

- A) Executive
- B) Legislative
- C) Judiciary
- D) Bureaucracy

22. The 'Treaty of Tordesillas' (1494) was primarily intended to divide newly discovered lands between which two powers?

- A) England and France
- B) Spain and Portugal
- C) Netherlands and Spain
- D) Britain and Portugal

23. Which political concept refers to the right to rule as recognized by the governed?

- A) Power
- B) Authority
- C) Legitimacy
- D) Influence

24. In game theory, the 'Prisoner's Dilemma' is often used to model which political situation?

- A) Voting behavior
- B) Arms races between nations
- C) Cabinet selection
- D) Constitutional drafting

25. Which landmark 1803 U.S. Supreme Court case established the principle of judicial review?

- A) McCulloch v. Maryland
- B) Marbury v. Madison
- C) Gibbons v. Ogden
- D) Dred Scott v. Sandford