

Foundations of Political Science for Young Minds

Political Science · Practice Test · 19 Questions

1. Which political philosophy, heavily influenced by John Locke, advocates for natural rights, limited government, and consent of the governed, forming a cornerstone of many modern democracies?

- A) Marxism
- B) Socialism
- C) Liberalism
- D) Fascism

2. In the context of international relations, the concept of 'sovereignty' primarily refers to which fundamental principle?

- A) The right of a state to engage in military intervention
- B) The supreme authority of a state within its own territory
- C) The obligation of states to join international alliances
- D) The division of powers between national and sub-national governments

3. The theory of 'separation of powers', most famously articulated by Montesquieu, proposes dividing governmental authority among distinct branches to prevent tyranny. What are these typically considered to be?

- A) Executive, Judicial, and Military
- B) Legislative, Executive, and Bureaucratic
- C) Judicial, Diplomatic, and Economic
- D) Legislative, Executive, and Judicial

4. Which term describes a political system where a single political party holds power and tolerates no opposition, often characterized by state control over most aspects of public and private life?

- A) Anarchy
- B) Oligarchy
- C) Totalitarianism
- D) Democracy

5. The 'realist' school of thought in international relations primarily emphasizes the role of what in shaping state behavior on the global stage?

- A) International law and institutions
- B) Economic interdependence
- C) National interest and power
- D) Ideological solidarity

6. What is the primary function of a constitution in a political system?

- A) To declare war
- B) To establish the fundamental principles and laws of a nation
- C) To elect political leaders
- D) To negotiate trade agreements

7. The concept of 'checks and balances' is intrinsically linked to the separation of powers. It ensures that no single branch of government becomes too powerful by allowing each branch to do what?

- A) Enforce laws directly
- B) Approve all legislative proposals
- C) Limit or influence the actions of other branches
- D) Control the national budget entirely

8. Which major political ideology, originating from the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, advocates for a classless society achieved through revolution, with the abolition of private property?

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

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

- A) The process by which governments are formed
- B) The way individuals acquire political attitudes and beliefs
- C) The formal study of political systems
- D) The negotiation of international treaties

10. The 'Thucydides Trap' is a concept used to describe the tendency for what to occur when a rising power challenges a ruling power?

- A) Economic cooperation and growth
- B) Peaceful transitions of leadership
- C) Conflict and war
- D) Cultural exchange and understanding

11. A 'welfare state' is a political system where the government takes responsibility for the basic well-being of its citizens. This typically involves providing what?

- A) Only national defense
- B) Extensive social programs such as healthcare and education
- C) Minimal intervention in the economy
- D) Strict censorship laws

12. Which form of government is characterized by a supreme ruler who holds absolute power and is not bound by law?

- A) Republic
- B) Democracy
- C) Monarchy (absolute)
- D) Parliamentary system

13. The 'balance of power' theory in international relations suggests that peace is most likely maintained when which of the following conditions exists?

- A) One superpower dominates all others
- B) States form rigid, opposing alliances
- C) No single state or coalition of states is strong enough to dominate others
- D) All states agree to a single world government

14. What is the primary purpose of a manifesto or platform issued by a political party during an election?

- A) To criticize opponents
- B) To outline the party's proposed policies and goals
- C) To report on past achievements
- D) To organize public protests

15. The concept of 'political legitimacy' refers to the belief that a government's rule is what?

- A) Enforced through military might
- B) Authoritative and rightful
- C) Based on popular opinion alone
- D) Temporary and subject to change

16. Which philosophical movement emphasized reason, individualism, and skepticism towards traditional authority, profoundly influencing the Enlightenment and the development of modern political thought?

- A) Medieval Scholasticism
- B) Romanticism
- C) The Renaissance
- D) The Enlightenment

17. In international law, the principle of 'pacta sunt servanda' means that what?

- A) International treaties are always subject to renegotiation
- B) Treaties must be kept and honored
- C) Agreements can be broken if they are inconvenient
- D) Only powerful nations need to adhere to treaties

18. Which term describes a system of government where power is divided between a central government and regional or state governments?

- A) Unitary
- B) Confederation
- C) Federal
- D) Authoritarian

19. The 'end of history' thesis, proposed by Francis Fukuyama, suggests that the global spread of what political and economic system marked the culmination of human ideological evolution?

- A) Fascism
- B) Socialism
- C) Liberal democracy and capitalism
- D) Communism