

Foundations of Political Philosophy

Political Philosophy · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Who is widely credited with writing 'The Republic,' a foundational text in Western political philosophy that first explored the concept of an ideal state led by philosopher-kings?

- A) Aristotle
- B) Plato**
- C) Socrates
- D) Confucius

2. Which ancient Greek philosopher, a student of Plato, is credited with one of the earliest systematic studies of politics and is often referred to as the 'father of political science' for his work 'Politics'?

- A) Epicurus
- B) Diogenes
- C) Aristotle**
- D) Heraclitus

3. In which ancient city-state did the concept of 'democracy' (rule by the people) first emerge as a form of government?

- A) Sparta
- B) Corinth
- C) Thebes
- D) Athens**

4. Which Enlightenment thinker's concept of the 'social contract,' outlined in his book of the same name, posited that governments derive their legitimacy from the consent of the governed?

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

5. Niccolò Machiavelli, in his groundbreaking work 'The Prince,' is often credited with the first major modern treatise on what practical aspect of political leadership?

- A) Ethical governance
- B) Realpolitik and statecraft**
- C) Democratic reform
- D) Social welfare policies

6. The idea of the 'separation of powers,' where governmental authority is divided among different branches, was famously articulated and popularized by which French Enlightenment philosopher?

- A) Voltaire
- B) Montesquieu**
- C) Rousseau
- D) Diderot

7. John Locke's philosophy laid crucial groundwork for later political thought by introducing the concept of natural rights. What are the three key natural rights he identified?

- A) Liberty, equality, fraternity
- B) Life, liberty, and property**
- C) Justice, peace, and prosperity
- D) Truth, beauty, and goodness

8. Which political philosopher is considered one of the earliest proponents of utilitarianism, arguing that the best action is the one that maximizes happiness for the greatest number of people?

- A) David Hume
- B) Adam Smith
- C) Jeremy Bentham**
- D) John Stuart Mill