

Introduction to Political Philosophy

Political Philosophy · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek philosopher wrote 'The Republic', a work that discusses the concept of justice and the ideal state?

- A) Aristotle
- B) Socrates
- C) Plato
- D) Epicurus

2. In a direct democracy, who makes the decisions on laws and government policies?

- A) A king or queen
- B) The citizens themselves
- C) A group of wealthy elites
- D) Appointed judges

3. What is the primary purpose of a constitution in a modern nation?

- A) To list all the laws of the land
- B) To describe the history of a country
- C) To establish the rules and framework of a government
- D) To set the taxes for the year

4. Which form of government is ruled by a single person who often inherits their position through a family line?

- A) Monarchy
- B) Republic
- C) Anarchy
- D) Oligarchy

5. John Locke, an English philosopher, argued that all people have natural rights. Which of the following is one of those rights?

- A) Property
- B) Technology
- C) Entertainment
- D) Fashion

6. What is the term for a system of government where power is held by a small group of powerful or wealthy people?

- A) Democracy
- B) Oligarchy
- C) Theocracy
- D) Dictatorship

7. In a parliamentary system, what is the title of the head of government in countries like Australia or the United Kingdom?

- A) President
- B) Governor
- C) Prime Minister
- D) Chief Justice

8. What concept describes the idea that the power of a government should be limited by laws to prevent abuse?

- A) Absolute power
- B) Rule of law
- C) Dictatorship
- D) Totalitarianism

9. The 'Social Contract' theory suggests that people agree to give up some freedoms in exchange for what?

- A) Unlimited wealth
- B) Free travel
- C) Protection and order
- D) Total privacy

10. Which document, signed in 1215, is famous for limiting the power of the King of England for the first time?

- A) The Bill of Rights
- B) The Magna Carta
- C) The Declaration of Independence
- D) The Communist Manifesto

11. What is the name for a system where a central government shares power with regional or state governments?

- A) Federalism
- B) Unitary system
- C) Absolute monarchy
- D) Autocracy

12. Which political philosopher wrote 'Leviathan' and argued that a strong government is needed to keep order?

- A) Karl Marx
- B) Thomas Hobbes
- C) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- D) John Stuart Mill

13. In a republic, who do the citizens typically elect to make decisions on their behalf?

- A) Their parents
- B) A king
- C) Representatives
- D) Religious leaders

14. Which term describes a system where the government owns and controls the major industries and resources?

- A) Capitalism
- B) Socialism
- C) Liberalism
- D) Libertarianism

15. What is the primary role of a 'Legislature' in a government?

- A) To carry out the law
- B) To interpret the law
- C) To make the laws
- D) To arrest criminals

16. A government where religious leaders hold the main political power is known as what?

- A) Theocracy
- B) Democracy
- C) Technocracy
- D) Plutocracy

17. Which branch of government is responsible for interpreting the laws and the constitution?

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

18. What does the 'separation of powers' aim to prevent within a government?

- A) The formation of political parties
- B) The concentration of too much power in one branch
- C) The holding of public elections
- D) The creation of new laws

19. Who is often referred to as the 'father of modern political science' for his book 'The Prince'?

- A) Niccolò Machiavelli
- B) Voltaire
- C) Montesquieu
- D) Cicero

20. What is the main role of the 'Executive' branch of government?

- A) To make new laws
- B) To enforce and carry out laws
- C) To decide if laws are fair
- D) To write the constitution

21. What term refers to the right of citizens to vote in government elections?

- A) Suffrage
- B) Censorship
- C) Mandate
- D) Veto

22. Which philosopher is famous for his ideas on the 'separation of powers' between different government branches?

- A) Baron de Montesquieu
- B) Thomas Paine
- C) Immanuel Kant
- D) Confucius

23. In a totalitarian state, how much control does the government have over the lives of its citizens?

- A) Very little
- B) Only over taxes
- C) Almost complete control
- D) Only over education

24. What is a 'referendum' in the context of political decision-making?

- A) A private meeting of politicians
- B) A vote by citizens on a specific proposal or law
- C) The process of electing a president
- D) A report by a judge

25. Which political system emphasizes individual freedom, private property, and free markets?

- A) Classical Liberalism
- B) Communism
- C) Fascism
- D) Monarchism