Milestones in Political Science

Political Science · Practice Test · 12 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek philosopher is credited with the first systematic classification of political constitutions based on the number of rulers (one, few, or many) and their intent?

A) Plato
B) Aristotle
C) Socrates
D) Xenophon

2. What was the first written legal code in history to establish the principle of 'lex talionis' or retributive justice as a state function?

A) The Twelve Tables
B) The Code of Hammurabi
C) The Edict of Milan
D) The Magna Carta

3. In the history of political thought, who first articulated the 'state of nature' as a condition of 'war of all against all' in the work 'Leviathan'?

A) John Locke
B) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
C) Thomas Hobbes
D) Baruch Spinoza

4. Which 13th-century document is recognized as the first legal charter to formally limit the absolute power of a monarch by establishing the 'rule of law'?

A) The Petition of Right
B) The Magna Carta
C) The Bill of Rights 1689
D) The Treaty of Westphalia

5. Which nation was the first to adopt a written national constitution, effectively codified in 1787?

A) France
B) The United States
C) Poland
D) San Marino

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6. Who is considered the first 'political scientist' to argue for the separation of powers into legislative, executive, and judicial branches in 'The Spirit of the Laws'?

A) Montesquieu
B) John Locke
C) James Madison
D) Voltaire

7. Which mid-17th-century event is cited by historians as the first establishment of the principle of 'state sovereignty' and 'non-interference' in international relations?

A) The Treaty of Utrecht
B) The Peace of Westphalia
C) The Congress of Vienna
D) The Treaty of Versailles

8. The concept of 'totalitarianism' was first coined and used as a political term in the early 1920s to describe the regime of which leader?

A) Adolf Hitler
B) Joseph Stalin
C) Benito Mussolini
D) Vladimir Lenin

9. Which country was the first to grant universal suffrage, including the right to vote for women in national elections, in 1893?

A) Finland
B) New Zealand
C) Norway
D) Australia

10. The first formal 'Political Science' department in the United States was established at which university in 1880?

A) Harvard University
B) Columbia University
C) Yale University
D) Johns Hopkins University

11. Who authored 'The Prince', often cited as the first work of modern political science that divorced political strategy from traditional morality?

A) Niccolò Machiavelli
B) Thomas More
C) Erasmus
D) Jean Bodin

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12. Which historical document is regarded as the first formal declaration of human rights in the modern era, adopted by the French National Constituent Assembly in 1789?

A) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
B) Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
C) The Magna Carta Libertatum
D) The Bill of Rights

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